Daily Report

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NATO Officials Favor Air Strikes To Protect Mostar Aid

AU2508142793 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Brussels, Aug 25 (AF)—Countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation favour air strikes to protect relief convoys trying to get into the besieged Herzegovina city of Mostar, diplomats said here Wednesday [25 August].

They were speaking after a meeting of NATO's political committee, which comprises mid-level officials from the alliance's 16 nations.

The diplomats, speaking on condition that they not be identified, said there was "complete agreement" that NATO should launch air strikes to protect UN convoys approaching Mostar, if asked to do so by the United Nations.

(In Geneva, UN officials said Bosnian Croats besieging Mostar had renewed a blockade of a UN aid convoy on Wednesday as it tried for the second straight day to reach 55,000 Moslems trapped in the town.)

NATO warned formally at two meetings on August 2 and 9 that it was ready to launch air strikes on forces threatening the safety of UN aid convoys anywhere in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

One NATO diplomat said Wednesday's meeting had concentrated on the "desperate plight" of the besieged Moslems.

"There was a tremendous unanimity of views that the regular delivery of humanitarian aid must be unimpeded," she said.

The NATO air strike decision also applied to the protection of Sarajevo and five other UN-declared "safe areas" where Moslems are besieged by Serb forces.

The NATO military has prepared detailed plans to bomb forces besieging the six areas if the United Nations gives the go-ahead.

A NATO official said that Mostar had not been included in this detailed planning since it has not been named a "safe area". But he added that pressure was growing to add it to the list.

UN Ambassador Addresses World Court Session

AU2508145393 Paris AFP in English 1431 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The Hague, Aug 25 (AFP)—Bosnian representative Muhammed Sacirbey lashed the international community for its "passivity" in allowing "genocide" in the former Yugoslav republic as a hearing before the International Court of Justice got under way here Wednesday.

Sacirbey, Bosnia's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, also blamed western nations, including those on the U.N. Security Council, for maintaining an arms embargo on the country, thereby denying Bosnian Moslems their "right to self-defence".

The ambassador was addressing a session of the world court's 15 judges called to hear rival suits from Bosnia and the rump Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) alleging genocide in the ongoing Bosnian war. [passage omitted]

"The common denominator to all the interventions by the international community so far has been its lack of will to take on directly the perpetrators of genocide and stop their actions," Sacirbey said.

The "genocide" continues in Bosnia and its government is "forced to negotiate with those responsible," who use this threat "like a loaded gun pointed at the head" of Bosnia, he said.

"The law has been trodden underfoot" and "the mediators have legitimized the ambitions and pretentions of the authors of genocide," Sacirbey also charged. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources here said The Netherlands was worried that the current peace initiative might force the Moslems to accept a settlement which would give them an "extremely small and non-viable" portion of territory. [passage omitted]

In the current petition, Bosnia again asks the court to grant it "the ability to obtain military weapons, equipment and supplies from other contracting parties."

Tripartite Council Debates Trade Union Property

AU2408192393 Sofia BTA in English 1809 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 24 (BTA)—The National Council for Tripartite Cooperation, comprising representatives of the government, employers and trade unions, will propose to the cabinet to revoke two government decrees that concern trade union property, Mr. Khristo Totev, minister of regional development and construction, said after today's meeting of the council which discussed the issue at the Podkrepa Labour Confederation's request.

Podkrepa demanded the revocation of the decrees with the motive that they run counter to the act under which the property of the former Communist Party and its satellite organizations (the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, the Young Communist League, the Fatherland Front, etc.) were reversed to the state. The act concerns trade union property too. Under it the property of the former state-controlled trade unions was confiscated. The two largest trade union amalgamations, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (KNSB) and Podkrepa, insisted on dividing the confiscated property between them. In the meantime the government issued decrees transferring part of the trade union property for use by some cultural institutes and another part—for management by a company with state interest.

Following a serious conflict, the KNSB and Podkrepa smoothed out their differences, reaching the formulation of a common stand on the issue of trade union property. By agreement with the government, it was decided that 10 percent of trade union property would remain in the hands of the state, the KNSB would receive 55 percent of it and Podkrepa—35 percent. The decision is in line with the recommendation made by the International Labour Organization, which the trade unions consulted on the matter.

So far the Commission on Trade Union Property Distribution, chaired by Minister of Construction Khristo Totev, has inspected over 400 units or two-thirds of all trade union property. The distribution of the property is expected to be completed by mid-September.

Representatives of the National Trade Union (NTU), which claims to have about 60,000 members, expressed their discontent as the NTU is barred from participation in the distribution of trade union property. According to the NTU leaderhsip, 15 to 30 percent of the trade union property should be sold to the trade union organizations and the rest should be used by the state for social purposes.

The Edinstvo Trade Union (it claims 113,000 members), whose leaders accused the KNSB of being involved in fishy deals, described the distribution of the property of the former trade union empire as the fraud of the century in Bulgaria.

Privatization Agency Executive Director Dismissed

AU2408201693 Sofia BTA in English 1930 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 24 (BTA)—The Supervisory Board of the Privatization Agency dismissed Executive Director Aleksandur Bozhkov today.

The vote on his dismissal was put on the agenda of today's sitting of the Supervisory Board at the last moment, Mr. Bozhkov told journalists. The motion carried by a vote of seven and one abstention.

Aleksandur Bozhkov was relieved of his position under an article of the Labour Code which does not require any motives to be cited for a dismissal, according to Reneta Indzhova, who was appointed head of the agency's Supervisory Board last week. The Supervisory Board thanked the former executive director and the whole staff of the agency for their efforts, Ms. Indzhova told journalists. Deputy Executive Director Katya Georgieva will be acting executive director as of August 27 until the election of a new one. Mr. Bozhkov will formally keep his position until then, Ms. Indzhova said.

The Supervisory Board is expected to elect a new executive director by the end of September. National radio said the new director will be appointed after a competitive examination which will be held by September 15.

I don't see any formal violation of the law or of the agency's regulations, but the right thing to do was to wait until next week when the other three members of the board will be back, Mr. Bozhkov said. He is "greatly relieved" now that the agony of the dismissal, going on for several months, is over. He is happy that he will be able to do what he likes from now on.

In an interview on national radio, Mr. Bozhkov pointed out the slow pace of privatization as the main motive for his dismissal. In an interview for Efir 2 of national television, Ms. Indzhova said Bozhkov's dismissal had been prompted by the need to overcome the crisis in the reform and in privatization in particular.

Anthrax Breaks Out; Civil Defense To Help

AU2508143693 Sofia Khristo Botev Radio Network in Bulgarian 0800 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The purchase of meat of unproven origin offered suspiciously cheaply can be a sure way to end up in the hospital, our correspondent Vladimir Delchev reports from Khaskovo. Here are the facts of the case:

[Begin Delchev recording] Following the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease that put veterinarian specialists on the alert, seven cases of anthrax have been reported in the village of Stransko in the Dimitrovgrad Municipality. The state veterinary and public health authorities reacted promptly on this occasion as well, and quickly established the source of the infection.

It turned out that those infected had eaten meatballs made from locally prepared mince. It emerged that the mince had been prepared from relatively cheap meat supplied by a Gypsy tradesman without the necessary public health quality certificates. The meat had evidently been obtained illegally from uncertificated animals. This made it necessary to examine all the animals in the village. The infected animals were put down and buried deep in the ground, the area in which they had been kept was disinfected, and the healthy animals vaccinated. The 700 kilograms of infected meat was sent to be incinerated.

However, it has turned out that it is more difficult to combat anthrax than to deal with foot-and-mouth disease. So far 24 cases of anthrax have been confirmed among the citizens. The patients are being treated in hospitals in Dimitrovgrad and Stara Zagora. The Civil Defense has been brought in to eliminate this danger to livestock and people, and is disinfecting all fields that are suspected of being infected. [end recording]

Bank Officials Explain Foreign Exchange Policies

AU2508143593 Sofia BTA in English 1233 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Mariana Barutchieva]

[Text] Sofia, August 25 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Foreign Trade bank paid 5.5 million dollars in interest on debts to the Paris Club in the first half of August. 180,000 million leva were extended in credits from the beginning of 1993 by August 20 (by the end of 1992 they totalled 120,000 million leva), BTA learned from the Economic and Monetary Analysis Department of the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB). The money supply amounted to 157,900 million leva by August 20, as against 120,000 million leva by the end of 1992. 2,776 million dollars were bought by August 20 as against 2,081 million dollars by the end of 1992, 2,453 million dollars were sold by August 20 as against 1,857 million dollars by the end of 1992.

The equilibrium in the money market is all the more surprising, given the economic situation in this country, Lyubomir Filipov, chief of the Leva Transactions Department of the BNB, told this reporter.

The credit ceilings fixed by the central bank on commercial banks and the unresolved bad debt problem largely distort the real picture of the money market. The relatively stable interest rate, despite its recent cut by 4 percentage points down to 44 percent (effective as of August 23), helps maintain activity in the money market. This is made possible by the fact that the banks' lending rate is linked to the base interest rate. Of course, the money supply is only relatively stable, given the bad state of the economy, Mr. Filipov commented.

There are two reasons for the latest cut in the base rate: the slight appreciation of the lev on the foreign exchange market and the rate of inflation. Given the rather high rate of inflation in this country, the BNB aims to control the exchange rate of the lev rather than to impose it. It is controlled through gradual depreciation (at a rate lower than the inflation rate) against the convertible currencies, which still are overpriced in this country, Mr. Filipov said. The BNB Governing Board's decision was also prompted by the inflation figures for July (1 percent) and the first half of August (an estimated 1.5 percent).

In setting monetary policy, the central bank gives serious attention to foreign exchange factors, there being no instruments with which to influence the exchange rate, Mr. Filipov said.

There has been a change in the foreign exchange market and the moment is more or less appropriate for a cut in the interest rate, Stoyan Shukerov, head of Foreign Exchange Transactions Department of the BNB, told BTA. The foreign exchange market has stabilized since August, with a balance between the amounts of hard currency bought and sold in a sluggish market.

The BNB can neutralize the negative effect on the lev of speculations involving the exchange of leva for hard currency. Inflationary pressures and the commercial banks' liquidity on their current accounts in the central bank are relatively low, and the money supply is relatively calm. The foreign exchange market is and will remain stable, despite the cut in the base rate and the purchase of 3.5 million dollars by the BNB on Friday, Mr. Shukerov said. The BNB has a foreign exchange reserve of 1,000 million dollars plus its gold reserves.

Ministry Regulation of Import, Export of Plants

AU2408192293 Sofia BTA in English 1655 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 24 (BTA)—The change in the conditions of trade in Bulgaria made it necessary to regulate the import and export of plant products, Mr. Todor Yanov, an expert at the Ministry of Agriculture, told the press today. In his view, Bulgaria should liberalize the import and export of plant products meeting the standards of the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) which it is a member of. Today the Ministry of Agriculture made a list of plants and plant products, the import and export of which should satisfy the EPPO special phytosanitary requirements. It concerns the import of goods from Europe and other parts of the world. Another list sets out the cases of phytosanitary prohibition on the import of plants and plant products in this country. The requirements included in the second list are not subject to changes.

Bulgaria prohibits the import of goods that can introduce and spread dangerous quarantine diseases, such as soil, plants together with the soil and plant remnants—straw and hay for instance. A third list shows the goods and plant varieties for the import of which an import licence and certificate should be obtained. It was decided that the import licences would be issued by the central authorities because the decentralization of the procedure

could give rise to corruption, given the uncivilized way trade is conducted here, Mr. Todor Yanev underlined. In his opinion, all companies concerned should notify the Ministry of Agriculture about their intention to import certain goods in advance.

Economist Analyzes Expansion of Trade With Turkey

AU2508143793 Sofia BTA in English 1306 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Sofia, August 25 (BTA)—Over the last three years, Bulgaria and Turkey have made a great stride forward in almost all areas of their bilateral contacts, writes Savas Orhan Ozioldas, D.Sc. (Econ.), in an article contributed to today's STANDART NEWS. Among the prerequisites for this progress, he lists the economic reform in Turkey in the 1980's, the economic transformation under way in Bulgaria, as well as what he describes as an "objective need" of economic approximation and complementarity. The democratization of socio-economic and political life in Bulgaria over the last few years, the existing direct and cheap transport links between the two countries, as well as the experience amassed in cooperation so far, above all in trade, also help eliminate the bilateral confrontation which characterized the 1985-1989 period.

Bulgarian-Turkish trade between 1980 and 1992 totalled 1,282.8 million U.S. dollars. Within this amount, Bulgarian exports to Turkey amounted to 963 million dollars, and Turkish exports to Bulgaria were valued at 320 million dollars. Bulgaria steadily tends to run a surplus in its trade with Turkey, Mr. Ozioldas writes. The only exception was the period of confrontation over the repressive policy of the totalitarian regime in Bulgaria in connection with the names of the Bulgarian citizens of Turkish origin. After the collapse of the regime in 1989, the tendency was reactivated and the total amount of Bulgaria's trade surplus with Turkey reached 690 million dollars for the 1980-1992 period, writes the author.

Bulgaria exports to Turkey machines, artificial fertilizer and other chemical products, meat, dairy products, other foods, raw and tanned hides, non-ferrous metals, tools etc. Turkish exports to Bulgaria consist of foods, boilers, machines and equipment, textiles, raw cotton and cotton thread, chemicals, automobiles, paints and varnishes, tropical fruit, sugar, bread yeast, olive oil and olives.

Enterprises in the two countries pursue contacts on an individual basis, forming joint ventures, subsidiaries and plants abroad, and signing credit agreements. The exchanged visits of official delegations of the two countries in the last two years have resulted in the signing of agreements providing for a free trade zone along the common border, encouraging information exchanges, organization of business weeks, cooperation in the energy sector, transport, the export of live animals and livestock products and many other joint products, Mr. Ozioldas writes. Agreements have been signed on regional economic, tourist, cultural and sports cooperation, active contacts are maintained by the chambers of commerce and industry. Common understanding has been reached on the establishment of two new joint organizations in this area, which will be helped by the Trakya University in Edirne and the regional chambers of commerce.

Russian President Arrives; Schedule Previewed

LD2608102393 Prague CTK in English 0916 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Prague, August 26 (CTK)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived this morning in Prague for a roughly five-hour working visit to the Czech Republic. The visit, which is taking place at the invitation of Czech President Vaclav Havel, follows Yeltsin's two-day official visit to Poland on August 24-25.

At Prague Airport, Yeltsin and his wife Naina were greeted by Havel, accompanied by his wife Olga. Also present were Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec and his wife.

Yeltsin will meet with Havel at Prague Castle. During the two presidents' short walk through Prague, Yeltsin is to lay flowers at the plaque commemorating Marie Charouskova, who was killed during the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, and of a fallen Russian soldier.

Later Yeltsin is to meet with Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus.

Talks between Czech and Russian representatives will take place at the same time as those between the two presidents. The Russian delegation includes First Deputy Premier Oleg Lobov, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Defence Minister Pavel Grachov. The Czech Republic will be represented at the talks by Zieleniec, Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik, Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy and Defence Minister Antonin Baudys.

A Czech-Russian agreement on friendly relations and cooperation should be signed during Yeltsin's visit, which coincides exactly with the 25th anniversary of the signing of the so-called Moscow protocols on the temporary presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory. The treaty's preamble should include statements that both parties wish to draw the final line on the totalitarian past connected with the inadmissable use of force against Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the subsequent unjustifiable presence of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory, whose material impact was resolved by the agreement of April 1, 1992. The Czech Government recommended the signing at its Wednesday session. Also expected are the signing of an inter-governmental agreement on economy and trade, and an inter-governmental protocol on mutual supplies of goods in 1993.

When announcing his Czech visit on August 19, Yeltsin said that a visit to the Czech Republic had not originally been planned within his Polish trip. However, Mr Havel asked me very urgently to stop in Prague for a few hours, and to meet him to evaluate our cooperation and discuss ways for it to develop more dynamically. It is the main topic of our meeting.

At the same press conference, Yeltsin said that Russia could not apologize for the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops, since this event was not a Russian action. At the same time, however, he said that Moscow was ready to admit that the invasion of Soviet tanks violates all international legal acts and to condemn it.

The press attache of the Russian Embassy in Prague Yuriy Tsingovatov told CTK on Tuesday that Yeltsin's visit was also important because it was the first visit of a Russian president to the new Czech Republic.

Yeltsin has already paid one official visit to Prague in May 1991, while acting as chairman of the Russian parliament. He came at the invitation of his Czech counterpart at the time, Aleksandr Dubcek.

Klaus Comments on Treaty

LD2508164693 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1600 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] According to [Prime Minister] Vaclav Klaus, the treaty between the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation is expected to be signed on the occasion of the visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Prague. Jakub Kuehl has more details.

[Kuehl] Following today's regular session of the government, Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus said the following about the treaty, which has been approved by his government for signing.

[Begin Klaus recording] The government understands it as a treaty which clearly expresses that the Czech Republic is a successor to the Czechoslovak Federation. It means that it respects the treaty in the form in which it was signed in Moscow last year by the president of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic. [end recording]

[Kuehl] In this treaty the Russian Federation distances itself from the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Warsaw Treaty armies in 1968.

Zieleniec on Treaty

LD2508224993 Prague CTK in English 2230 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Prague, August 25 (CTK)—Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec today denied that any pressure from Russian diplomats had influenced today's recommendation by the Czech Government that the Czech-Russian treaty on friendly relations and cooperation be signed during tomorrow's visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Prague.

Given that the Russians had shown great interest in signing the treaty, Zieleniec said he believed that it would be goind [as received] to make a gesture of support to the attempts of Russia and Russian democratic forces to develop democracy in the country. This is how the conclusions of the government's session today should be understood, he said.

He said that the treaty roughly corresponded to what the Czech Republic had wanted to achieve it was mainly a successor treaty (to the one signed between the former Czechoslovakia and Russia in April 1992.) It is important to show that our relations with Russia are becoming normal and that they can be projected into the future as the relations of two equal states, Zieleniec declared.

The Czech side had really just amended the treaty signed last year by the presidents of the former Czechoslovakia and the Russian Federation, Vaclav Havel and Boris Yeltsin. The new treaty, he said, issued from the principles of successorship and was also connected with many other treaties which were still valid. What had been amended in it were those details which provoked the most discussion during attempts to ratify it last year, when the Czechoslovak Federation had not yet split up. The new treaty would therefore not cause arguments, Zieleniec said.

It is really only a treaty whose roots reach into the past one which is really an amendment of an older treaty, because this was the philosophy of the treaty prepared last time, the minister said, adding that it had to be signed, however, because formally the treaty from 1970 in the normalisation period was still valid. Zieleniec said the prepared treaty would replace the 1970 one, with sentences condemning the aggression towards Czechoslovakia.

The treaty will not contain a direct apology for the occupation in 1968, the minister said, but a sentence in the preamble would unequivocally condemn the aggression. I personally hope that the question of apology will remain open and is connected with further developments in Russia, Zieleniec announced. He said he was convinced that Yeltsin's forthcoming visit would be significant from this point of view too.

Zieleniec explained that Czech reservations towards the treaty stemmed more from a belief that such a full-stop on the past deserved rather more ceremony, and that they were not reservations towards the treaty itself.

The argument and discussion taking place in Slovakia over a similar Slovak-Russian treaty he said concerned clauses which the Czechs had already solved in negotiations with Russia. Discussions in Slovakia centered on the preamble to the treaty and the clause stating that neither of the partners would allow their territory to be used for military action by the other party. We had already sorted this out, so I believe we had no reason for such discussions, he said.

Asked whether he personally believed that Yeltsin, as a long-standing member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ought to feel a certain responsibility for actions committed by the USSR, he answered that the problem of admitting a certain responsibility for the past concerned the whole post-communist world.

Minister Wants To Ease Pressure on Farmers

AU2608075893 Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech 23 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux by Jindrich Stepanek, place and date not given: "Minister Lux Believes That the Situation in Agriculture Will Rapidly Deteriorate If the Government Does Not Ease Its Pressure"]

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux intends to submit to the government the principles of agrarian policy for the next two years. The principles provide for subsidies.

[Stepanek] Do you believe that, having received subsidies of 7.3 billion korunas [Kc] this year, agriculture has a chance of receiving Kc7.7 billion next year and Kc7.9 billion korunas in 1995 from the state budget?

[Lux] The key matter is to reach consensus regarding the assessment of the situation in which agriculture actually finds itself. Analytical data clearly shows that agriculture has shrunk. It is undergoing a process of change that, in my opinion, surpasses changes in large industrial enterprises. We have already reached a situation where, if the pressure on farmers continues, the impact of this pressure would be negative. I consider the changes thus far, such as the reduction in the agricultural labor force from 600,000 to 300,000, to have been positive. If we consider the fact, however, that last year's balance of profits and losses was minus Kc12.9 billion and that the volume of resources for distribution dropped by Kc8.2 billion, it is obvious that this trend cannot continue. This would lead to serious problems of a systemic nature in the agrarian sector. Our aim is to achieve a business environment that would be comparable to that in other branches of the economy. Agricultural production should be profitable. However, achieving this cannot be the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture, but it must be the government's policy.

[Stepanek] Agricultural subsidies have become the central bone of contention between the EC countries and the United States. The Americans criticize the Europeans for subsidizing the prices of agricultural commodities. How will subsidies be used in our country?

[Lux] We want to abandon subsidies for investment projects. The resources earmarked for subsidies should be geared toward guarantees. Agriculture is short of disposable money, it is short of credit extended under acceptable terms. Therefore, we want to direct the substantial part of credits toward credit guarantees and toward defraying the cost of interest. I believe that, in this way, we will have a chance to increase the amount of money that flows into agriculture. We want to protect our market by means of an active pro-export policy. We want our agriculture to produce food in an environment of permanently sustainable agriculture, in an environment of tolerable market liberalization.

[Stepanek] Could you explain that?

[Lux] A substantial part of products [consumed in the Czech Republic] must be produced by our farmers. It would be ideal if agrarian imports did not exceed exports. The degree of market protection must be such that it stimulates and increases competition. It must not, however, liquidate and ruin anyone. We will be engaged in a constant search for its optimal degree. In short, we must pass nature onto our descendants in a usable condition.

[Stepanek] Agriculture ended the year 1991 with a loss of Kc9.1 billion and last year with a loss of Kc12.9 billion. What kind of a connection do you see between these figures and the growing food prices?

[Lux] The question of the future is to what extent the government will succeed in realizing state participation in agrarian policy [sentence as published]. This presupposes that the conditions in agriculture and the other branches of the economy be brought to equal levels, which need not necessarily mean a higher growth of food prices than would correspond to the general inflationary trend. The state's failure to participate [in agrarian policy] would result in a radical change that, if we did not want to completely open our borders to subsidized foreign goods, would lead a drastic growth of prices.

HSDMS Chairman Criticizes Handling of Agriculture

AU2508125193 Prague CTK in English 1348 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Brno, South Moravia August 23 (CTK)—Transformation in the Czech agriculture is slow, both plant and animal production are dropping, and agriculture's share in the gross domestic product is only five percent, which should be sufficient reason for examining the work of the minister responsible for the sector, Jan Krycer said today.

Krycer, chairman of the Self-Governing Democracy Movement For Moravia and Silesia (HSDMS), added that the overall investment into Czech agriculture had declined to 3.5 percent.

He criticised the Czech minister of agriculture, Josef Lux, for having done nothing during the year since he had been installed in his function.

Krycer was surprised at the fact that Lux only demanded subsidies for agriculture which equalled two-thirds of amounts received in 1991.

Krycer stressed that the HSDMS had taken into consideration the possible decrease in interest on credits for agriculture, and subsidies which have been recommended to finance long-term credits under advantageous conditions. If these measures were not actually put in place, it would be necessary to expect a collapse, he warned.

Coalition Disagrees Over Property Restitution

AU2508131993 Prague CTK in English 1956 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 23 (CTK)—After today's discussion on restitution of church property in the Czech Republic, the coalition commission for settling the questions of future relations between the state and churches stated that there existed differences in assessment of the expression right of user, which should be applied to buildings involved.

The Civic Democratic Party (ODS) links returning of the church property (expropriated by the state after the 1948 communist putsch) to the user's right, i.e. to running of the property by its new owner, Martin Kocourek from the ODS told journalists. The specific kind of operation—in the social and educational spheres—would be decided by the state. If the church is ready to take over this obligation, the property will be returned. If not, it cannot get the property back, Kocourek said.

Two other coalition parties, Christian Democratic Party (KDS) and the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL) said that they had never considered such church character of health, educational and social spheres. They called the ODS assessment of user's right essentially different from present restitution laws. The KDS and KDU-CSL understand the user's right as tolerating in his building for ten years the activities determined by the state, Kocourek explained.

Coalition partners today agreed to invite church representatives to a next meeting to consult their stands with them.

The commission also discussed possible compensations for destroyed or damaged property to be returned. The ODS thinks that a prepared law (on the restitution of church property) should not provide for any compensations. However, if the legal person returning the property decides to give a compensation to the church, it should not be prevented from doing so.

Neither should the restitution of church property threaten the orientation followed by the Czech economy in the process of transformation, the experts stated.

Employers Accuse Government of Violating Agreement

AU2408102393 Prague CTK in English 1717 GMT 19 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 19 (CTK)—Today's meeting of the Tripartite Council has revealed differences in view among the three partners (of government, unions and employers) on the fulfillment of the general agreement in the first half of 1993, according to a communique issued after the meeting.

Representatives of employers told journalists they considered the most serious violation of the general agreement the fact that the government had announced wage regulations without abiding by the conditions of the general agreement. In the general agreement, which is concluded annually by the government, trade unions and employers, the three sides pledged to cooperate closely in economic questions in order to preserve social tranquility in the country.

Employers said they perceived the government measure as interference with the sovereignty of private business.

The Czech-Moravian Chamber of Trade Unions (CMKOS) confirmed its position that the failure to fulfill the general agreement on the part of the government could have considerable impact.

The government believes it did not violate the general agreement, arguing that the shift of the terms of fulfillment of some obligations set down in the agreement did not mean that the government did not abide by it.

Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Kamil Janacek said he disagreed with the view of CMKOS Deputy Chairman Jan Uhlir that one of the reasons wages grew 7 percent in June and July was enterprises' fear of additional taxation. He said that the growth of wages in the business sphere in the second quarter of this year was 5.8 percent higher than the rise in prices. He said that under valid legislation this gives the government the right to introduce additional taxation as a sanctionary measure.

He said the government sought to keep inflation under control, which would slow the growth of wages of individual groups of the population, but on the other hand would likely bring bigger advantages to all.

Left Bloc Party Registers at Interior Ministry

AU2508132393 Prague CTK in English 1614 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 23 (CTK)—The Czech Interior Ministry has registered the political party Left Bloc (LB) whose statutes embed the principle of double membership, member of the party's Preparatory Committee told journalists today.

The party carries the same name as the election coalition Left Bloc which ran in the June 1992 parliamentary elections, comprising the KSCM [Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia] and the Democratic Left (DL) movement. Ortman is chairman of the Left Bloc parliamentary group.

Earlier, Ortman said the aim of the Left Bloc Party was to integrate left-leaning forces after the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) split at its 3rd congress in June.

The KSCM now consists of conservatives, who rejected the reform wing's effort to rename the party and to change it into a modern left-orientated party.

The reformers merged with the DL to form the Democratic Left Party (SDL), and those wishing the unity of left-orientated forces founded the Left Bloc party.

Figures Released on Foreigners Working in Republic

AU2508124193 Prague CTK in English 1442 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Prague August 23 (CTK)—As of the middle of March of this year, 16,096 foreigners were legally working in the Czech Republic, according to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Also registered were 21,794 Slovak citizens.

Press Spokesman Ota Veverka said that the ministry obtains the statistics twice a year based on permits issued by labour offices. He added that it has no estimates of the number of foreigners working here illegally.

Citizens of Western European and overseas countries work mostly in technical professions, as managers and language teachers. Those from the East and Asia are usually employed as labourers, particularly in construction.

Exact statistics on Czechs working outside of the country are known only for the Slovak Republic, as the two countries have an agreement on employment exchange. The Ministry does not keep detailed records for Czechs working in other countries.

Czechs held 614 year-long employment agreements with German organisations as of April 30, and 3,816 three-month agreements. In addition, it is known that about 600 Czechs are working on contract.

The two countries do not yet have an agreement relating to Czechs who commute to jobs in Germany, who are therefore not required to report this activity. Their number is estimated at around 16,000.

Government Approves Russian Friendship Treaty

LD2408204593 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1930 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] The Slovak Government, chaired by Vladimir Meciar, unanimously approved the draft of the treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between Slovakia and Russia at its session today.

The government has also approved the draft law on managing state property. Minister of Finance Julius Toth said the law aimed at defining the position of the Slovak Republic as a property-owning subject [subjekt vlastnickeho prava], nominating further subjects administering state property and defining their rights and duties, and at determining penalties for breaking the law.

Unions Concerned About Unrest, Threaten Strike

AU2408133493 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak 12 Aug 93 p 4

[TA SR report: "They Do Not Agree With Changes to Social Laws"]

[Text] Kosice—The main issues discussed at the news conference given by representatives of the Confederation of Trade Unions in Kosice yesterday were as follows: What specific steps is the government taking to stop yet another decline in the standard of living, to eliminate the insolvency of enterprises, and to solve problems linked with unemployment.

As Alojz Englis, president of the Confederation of Trade Unions, said, for several reasons the confederation rejects changes to the social laws approved by the government. He said the changes were yet another government measure reducing the standard of living of families below subsistence level. "The government, in which there is no economist, was not able to create conditions to implement measures that would allow us to avoid taking yet another unpremeditated step in the social sphere. Moreover, these changes mainly affect the weakest strata of the population," A. Englis said.

The president of the Confederation of Trade Unions stressed that the trade unions were not pushing for a policy that would create tension and was antigovernment and anti-Slovak, even though they are often accused of this. They do not want to induce a series of strikes. However, it is possible that there could be public disturbances in the coming period. If the situation is not dealt with in a systemic way, the trade unions are prepared to use the extraordinary form of solution—a general strike. The Confederation of Trade Unions, as one of the social partners, feels it has been deceived by the Slovak Republic Government, which ignores it. "In this connection, we have not even discussed the fulfillment of the General Agreement, on which the next tripartite meeting in September is to pass judgment. It is more than clear even now that the government does not respect the General Agreement," A. Englis said.

Report Outlines Government Energy Concept

AU2408140693 Bratislava HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Slovak 23 Aug 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "An Energy Concept for the Future"]

[Text] Bratislava—The aim of the energy concept for the Slovak Republic to the year 2005, which was approved by the Slovak Government at its session on 17 August, is to adequately accommodate the increase in consumption of renewable and secondary sources, the combined production of electricity and heat, and the most efficient condensing sources.

Satisfying electric consumption by producing it from domestic sources and by importing an appropriate supply (10-20 percent) is taken into consideration in the concept. This should create a competitive climate in production and reduce the unfavorable effect on the environment. Electric consumption in the year 2010 is expected to be 34.9 TWh [terra Watt hours] (last year it was 25.8 TWh).

The basic option for producing electricity envisages the completion of all four blocks of the Mochovce nuclear power plant (the last block should be completed by 1997 at the latest) and the continuation of operations at the V-1 nuclear power plant in Jaslovske Bohunice until the year 2000.

The Vojany and Novaky power plants will be reconstructed with the proviso that they are equipped with desulfurization and denitrification systems. The utilization of Slovakia's hydro-electricity potential for energy-producing

Antall Interviewed on Miklos Horthy Affair

AU2408133093 Budapest MTI in English 2003 GMT 23 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, 23 Aug (MTI)—"I consider Miklos Horthy a Hungarian patriot, who could decree, with complete justification, that he wished to rest in Hungarian soil. Judging his historical and political role is not just for historians: He should be placed into the continuity of the nation and the awareness of the people," Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall said on Monday [23 August].

The prime minister made the remarks in an interview carried in Hungarian Television's programme "24 Hours," on Monday evening, as continuation of his interview aired on Sunday evening in the weekly political magazine programme "A HET" (THE WEEK).

Antall believed Horthy's reburial had become a political issue because of his unfairly bad image. The Hungarian Government sees the reburial as a reverential act, not a state holiday, but a family event. It is, however, also natural that, just as others, government members can attend, as private individuals, the burial of a statesman, a head of state who played such a leading role.

"The fact that Miklos Horthy's name highlights the turn after the evil commune of 1919 does not mean that one can agree with the atrocities committed by some semi-military groups, but no one should forget that there had been no atrocities in Hungary since 1867. There was a constitutional monarchy in Hungary, and the communists introduced murders and atrocities in 1919. Sadly, as usually happens, violent reprisals appeared in the volunteer brigade reactions as well."

The prime minister saw as typical of Europe that civil leaders could not play a role in the anarchies following the first world war, and this is how Miklos Horthy, who had the highest military rank in the monarchy, came to the foreground in Hungary. Horthy took over the direction of the country, by then cut to one-third its size, partially occupied, so in grave difficulties.

"Miklos Horthy upheld constitutional monarchy, he never acted against constitutional legal development, he consistently insisted on ministerial governing, never made an effort to force his policy on the government as a military dictator or chief of staff," Antall said.

"Horthy thus cannot be compared either to Antonescu, or General Franco, and most of all not to Ferenc Szalasi, who was imprisoned during the Horthy period. I believe that there was no alternative to the governorship of Miklos Horthy in 1920-21—the only way to stabilize the foreign and home policy of the country."

Returning to the reburial ceremony to be held in Kenderes, in the Horthy Family's crypt, Antall said on the thirty minute television programme, that it should be "a reverential act," and those trying to make political capital from the event, or to depict it in a bad light, either abroad or at home, are dishonest.

At the same time, Antall expects that after an unjust and distorted Horthy reputation, the public can now get a more honest view of Miklos Horthy and the age highlighted by his name, with further political and historical analysis.

Minister Discusses Importance of Police Bill

AU2408171593 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 24 Aug 93 p 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Peter Boross by "L.K." on 22 August; place not given: "It Would Be a Big Mistake If the Law on the Police Was Not Prepared"]

[Text] At the moment, the interior minister cannot give orders to the police, but this is against the Constitution because in this way the government's authority cannot prevail. It is also possible to say that the interior minister cannot be questioned on police matters. However, who shall then stand before Parliament, Interior Minister Peter Boross said in answer to a correspondent's question. We also learned from Boross that he hopes that the parliamentary debate on the police bill can at last begin in October.

[Correspondent] The Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] urges that the police bill be debated as soon as possible. What are your views on this?

[Boross] I too would like this, but the draft bills clash in Parliament's autumn cycle. At the same time, it has to be recognized that a debate on the legal issues of the economy cannot be delayed, either.

[Correspondent] Has the government established some kind of priorities?

[Boross] As for the bills proposed by the Interior Ministry, the draft bill on electoral law cannot be delayed, but we also need the law on the legal status of foreigners, and the bill on the police is already on Parliament's Ocober agenda. However, we know that Parliament has had plans in the past that it could not fulfill because of its time limitations. For this reason, the program has to be revised every month or every two weeks.

[Correspondent] Most of the legal provisions are linked to one another, for example the police law and the national security law, the law on the legal status of foreigners with the law on guarding the borders, and the latter with the defense law. How can you coordinate the laws if they are submitted at different times?

[Boross] These laws are indeed linked to one another but they do not depend on one another. The original idea was that the police bill should first come before Parliament, followed by the national security bill. However, the latter has not yet been discussed by the government. The bill on the border guard is in the same situation.

[Correspondent] There is an approximate consensus on the bill on the legal status of foreigners and on the electoral law, while no agreement has been reached on some fundamental issues of the police bill. In your view, what are the chances of Parliament accepting the government's proposal?

[Boross] I believe that the views of parliamentary parties on the police bill have changed as compared with three years ago. At any rate, it is not disputed that an assertive organization with adequate room for maneuver is needed. Some issues that I do not see as particularly significant are considered to be very important by certain people. However, we can discuss these. It would be a big mistake if the law on the police were not completed. The only possible worse mistake would be if Parliament accepted a law based on bad compromises.

[Correspondent] Basically, the abolition of the application system, relations between the police and local government, and the command rights of the interior minister are the three main open issues.

[Boross] The first mainly relates to the rules on appointing the leaders of district police stations, and the local governments' right to veto this. The current system is very bad because, rather than appointing the leaders for five years, continuity and stable careers have to be ensured within the police force. The application system and the vetoing rights of local government are not viable in a situation where the interior minister is questioned at least twice a month in Parliament over the activities of the police. However, if they expect concrete measures after their questions then how can they dispute the right to appointment and the minister's right to give orders? Because of this, the current rules are actually against the Constitution because the minister's responsibility cannot prevail. Naturally, it is also possible to say that the interior minister should not be questioned in Parliament on police matters. However, who should then stand before Parliament? Fortunately, as for relations between the local governments and the police, the breaking up of the centralized police force is not mentioned any more because it can only operate with a healthy command structure. Naturally, we can discuss minor details.

Foreign Ministry on Austrian Minister's Remarks

AU2508133293 Budapest MTI in English 1353 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, 24 August (MTI)—Austrian Defence Minister Werner Fasslabend touched on the possibility of a Hungarian-Slovak military conflict only in passing and as part of a longer interview on Austria's defence capabilities in Saturday's [21 August] DIE PRESSE, Hungarian Foreign Affairs Spokesman Janos Herman told reporters on Tuesday [24 August].

In view of the current political situation, he cannot have meant that the chance of such a conflict was at all likely, Herman said.

As a matter of fact, it was much more important what Hungarian-Slovak relations were like, Herman said.

He said Ivan Baba, deputy state secretary of foreign affairs, had visited Bratislava only last Friday [20 August], when talks were held on a number of concrete issues and the situation in some important areas clarified.

The Foreign Ministry expected the Hungarian-Slovak dialogue to continue and strove to develop genuine cooperation between Hungary and its neighbours, Herman said.

Energy Agreement Signed With Israel

LD2508160093 Budapest MTI in English 1246 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Budapest, August 25 (MTI)—Hungary's minister of industry and trade, Janos Latorcai, today signed an energy agreement with Israel's energy and police minister, Moshe Shahal.

Under the agreement, a joint committee for energy cooperation will be set up to review joint projects and propose new ones. Common work will mainly cover the exchange of technical and scientific information, joint research, development and production schemes, as well as cooperation in third markets.

The two countries concluded a similar agreement in 1989, but it proved ineffective.

Shahal, who is visiting Hungary at the invitation of Interior Minister Peter Boross, also discussed, with Latorcai, concrete deals involving Israeli firm Ormat to use Hungarian geothermic resources to produce energy and a bid by Hungary's Lang Abb to supply equipment for a power station on the Dead Sea.

Yeltsin Visits Warsaw, Signs Agreement

Walesa, Yeltsin News Conference

LD2508124393 Warsaw TVP Television First Program Network in Polish 0901 GMT 25 Aug 93

[News conference by Polish President Lech Walesa and Russian President Boris Yeltsin after the signing of Polish-Russian agreements in Warsaw; Yeltsin in Russian with superimposed translation; moderated by Walesa spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski—live]

[Text] [Drzycimski] Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues: You now have the opportunity to put a few questions to the two presidents.

[Kierich of INTERFAX] Esteemed presidents, could you compare your two meetings. What kind of atmosphere was there at the previous meeting, and what kind at the present one. Were these two meetings in any way different?

[Yeltsin] This is an interesting question. You are right. There is a difference between the talks we held with President Lech Walesa last year in Moscow and those being held at the moment. The most important thing I would like to stress is that the ice of distrust, of the lack of trust, between our two countries and our two nations, has melted. One more basic matter: Last year the talks were formal, perhaps even ceremonious, but the present talks consisted of a lively discussion, a conversation between two people who know life well.

[Walesa] I would like to add two sentences. Talks with the Russian president can be counted as one of life's great pleasures. I would like to add one more thing: Russia has a great politician, decisive and cast in a mold worthy of the greatness of that country. He is very fond of arguments, but he also accepts them. I hereby declare that this is a lovely fight and a pleasant fight, or rather it is work, noble, strong, good work.

[Drzycimski] And now for the Polish side for a change. I would ask Miss Pietraszek.

[Pietraszek] A question for President Yeltsin from Polish Television. What is his stand on Poland's possible entry into NATO?

[Yeltsin] The important thing is that the time when the Polish authorities turned to Moscow for advice and vice-versa are past, as are the days when our leaders, the leaders of the former Soviet Union, used to come here to give instructions. Times have changed. Now there are two sovereign states and one must respect their stands.

[Drzycimski] Now a question from Mr. Konanenko of IZVESTIYA.

[Konanenko] A question for both presidents: Have you succeeded in reaching agreement during your talks on the issue of the transit of the Russian troops being now withdrawn from Germany?

[Yeltsin] I am glad to be able to say that it was possible to find a solution to this issue.

[Walesa] I can confirm that so far there are no subjects on which we have not reached agreement.

[Drzycimski] Now a question from a Polish journalist.

[Janke] Igor Janke from ZYCIE WARSZAWY. What do the Suslov Commission materials which President Yeltsin brought with him contain? Also, has agreement been reached on the issue of Polish cutters fishing in the Okhotsk Sea?

[Yeltsin] I have passed the Suslov Commission materials over to the president. I think these materials should be examined by historians because they contain a lot of documents and it is difficult to discuss each of them in detail.

As far as fishing in the Okhotsk Sea is concerned, military maneuvers will start there soon and most probably fishing in that area will have to be transferred temporarily, as this also has a negative influence on the amount of fish and natural resources in the basin of that sea.

[Unidentified speaker] [passage indistinct]

[Drzycimski] A question from Mr. Sezov of the ITAR-TASS agency, please.

[Sezov] First of all, I have a question for the Russian president. Boris Nikolayevich, at the airport yesterday you stressed that Russia attaches priority in foreign economic relations with Poland and in its role in Eastern Europe. In the light of the documents signed today and the talks that have been held, could you actually specify the main points in these priorities? And a question for Polish President Mr. Walesa. Before the talks today, you stressed the genuine parity of relations between our two countries. Could you speak in a bit more detail on the economic prospects for relations between the two countries, by virtue of the documents that have been signed today? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] President Walesa and I both discussed the issue in detail in our statements. After all, in two visits we have managed to sign a great full-blooded treaty plus 20 serious agreements. This testifies to certain priorities in our policy.

[Walesa] I can add to that. If the president and I had done only half of what we have done, our nations would be very happy and there would still have been great consequences. So help us ensure that our plans and ideas are implemented. We would then live much better in the political, military, and security spheres. The question now is how to help us implement this great work we have done together with the Russian president.

[Drzycimski] Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, but unfortunately our time is up.

Suchocka Comments

LD2508174393 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin received Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka at his residence this afternoon. After a half-hour talk with the Russian president, the prime minister said:

[Begin Suchocka recording] We spoke about internal relations in Russia, about the new constitution, and also about elections in Russia. Of course part of our conversation was also devoted to Polish matters; referring to the declaration signed by the two presidents, I proposed the setting up of a Polish-Russian working commission which would go back to the tradition of an annual trade treaty—alongside long-term trade agreements. Within the annual protocols—which existed until 1992, there was not one in 1993—one could examine various matters concerned with the list of goods, the possibility of barter payments, and our building and investment services in Russia. [end recording]

Yeltsin Visits Katyn Monument

LD2508134793 Warsaw PAP in English 1225 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 25—Visiting Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday laid wreaths at the Katyn monument to the Polish officers murdered by the NKVD Soviet security police in 1940. He also talked to members of the federation of the Katyn families, promising to help them, and asked for forgiveness, according to one of participants in the meeting.

Some 15,000 Polish officers were taken prisoner after the Soviet Union invaded Poland on September 17, 1993 following the Soviet-German pact. They were in camps at Kozelsk, Ostashkov and Starobelsk, and most of them were later murdered in the forests in the vicinity of Katyn, near Smolensk, and at other places. Only recently have Russian authorities admitted that the crime was committed by the Soviet secret police.

At Warsaw Powazki main military cemetery Yeltsin talked to a survivor of the Kozielsk camp Priest Zdzislaw Peszkowski, now a chaplain of the federation of the Katyn families, and to a chairman of the federation Bozena Lojek.

Peszkowski told the Russian president that although they will never forget about the crime, the families of the murdered officers forgive those who killed them. He also asked Yeltsin to enable Poles to get access to all archival documents on the matter and to provide help in constructing a Marian shrine at Katyn.

Representatives of the Katyn federation invited the Russian president for the ceremony of consecration of the cemetery at Katyn planned for April 1995.

Military Satisfied With Pledge

LD2508153293 Warsaw PAP in English 1254 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 25—Government Commissioner for Deployment of Russian Troops in Poland Gen. Zdzislaw Ostrowski expressed his satisfaction with the declaration of the Russian president that troops of the Russian Federation will leave Poland ahead of schedule, by October 1.

According to Ostrowski, during Yeltsin's meetings with Polish president and prime minister it will be also decided where a Russian military mission should be placed. The mission is to supervise the transit of Russian troops from Germany to Russia, and the negotiations on its legal status are nearly concluded.

According to the Polish-Russian agreement of May 22, 1992, the last Soviet soldier was to leave Poland by December 31, 1993. Under the schedule of the Russian side its troops were to leave Poland by the end of November. Boris Yeltsin said at a press conference in Warsaw on Wednesday that the Russian troops will be withdrawn by October 1.

Skubiszewski on Talks With Russian Foreign Minister

LD2508192093 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Quotation marks denote recorded passages]

[Text] After his talks with [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev, journalists asked Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski to assess the Russian attitude toward the Polish intention to join NATO.

[Skubiszewski] "I believe that we have achieved a lot. It is a very essential step, a step, I would say, not only in the interests of Poland's security but European security as well. The North Atlantic Treaty must open itself to new members; so far it has not done so, and I appeal to the treaty to do this as soon as possible because it has been slow in its own transformation. And transformation means just that: accepting new members."

[Announcer] Both ministers spoke yesterday, and this is what minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski had to say about his talks today with Kozyrev, head of Russian diplomacy.

[Skubiszewski] "We have agreed that by the end of the year we should have ended talks on new regulations pertaining to sailing in the Vistula Bay and in the Strait of Pilau. The main issue, or rather the whole group of issues in Polish-Russian relations, are economic issues. These are raised by the presidents and other ministers; there is, however, a certain economic issue which we have raised today, namely the one connected with fishing in the Okhotsk Sea by Polish fishermen. We have agreed to begin negotiations on this issue.

"Among the Polish-Russian issues there are ones which I consider important. These are the cooperation and consultations concerning the transformations which our both states have been going through. I would also draw attention to a need for a new look at cooperation among young people. Definitely too little has been happening in this sphere. I stress that my talks with Minister Kozyrev, which have not ended yet, since we have another meeting in the evening, were very fruitful."

Solidarity Stages Warning Strikes in Armaments Factories

LD2608110893 Warsaw PAP in English 1054 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Kielce, Wroclaw, Aug. 26—Solidarity Trade Union started on Thursday a four-hour warning strike in several Polish armaments factories.

Unionists' protest is designed to force the government to pay off debts of armaments factories, ensure them a special status and guarantee orders for the army, leader of the armaments section of the "Solidarity" Trade Union Stanislaw Glowacki announced on Thursday.

Officers, Soldiers Running for Sejm, Senate Seats

LD2508212793 Warsaw TVP Television Second Program Network in Polish 1900 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Relayed by TV Polonia network]

[Text] [Announcer] There are 23 higher officers and two soldiers serving compulsory military service who are running for parliament. All of them have been given special leave by their superiors until the day of the elections.

[Unidentified correspondent] There are 20 officers running for the Sejm and three for the Senate. Among them are two major generals, 11 lieutenants, six lieutenant colonels, two majors, two captains, and two candidates for deputy from the compulsory military service.

From the list of the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms [BBWR] there are 13 officers running for the Sejm. Moreover, the BBWR has put forward two officers for the Senate.

One officer and one soldier serving compulsory service represent the Coalition for the Republic.

The list of the Democratic Left Alliance has one officer running for the Sejm and one for the Senate. The rest are running from the lists of the Polish Peasant Party, the Union of Labor, and the Union for Real Politics. The Party X and Self-Defense [Samoobrona trade union] lists also have one officer each. The Confederation for an Independent Poland has one soldier from the compulsory military service.

Walesa Holds Talks With BBWR Representatives

LD2508211893 Warsaw PAP in English 1936 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Warsaw, Aug. 25—President Lech Walesa reminded a group of representatives of the Non-Party Reform Bloc (BBWR) on Wednesday that the idea to set up the BBWR, he had put forward, aimed to stabilize Poland's political scene as a necessary condition to continue reforms.

He expressed a wish that the BBWR should be firm in conducting its electoral campaign so that it could gain strong position in a newly elected parliament, the president's press office said. The BBWR representatives told Walesa about the course of the election campaign.

UD Leader Comments on Wrzesnia Elections

LD2508210593 Warsaw PAP in English 1854 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Szczecin, Aug. 25—The trial elections at Wrzesnia were organized without proper experience and that is why their returns cannot be treated as a forecast of results of the coming parliamentary elections, leader of the Democratic Union (UD) Bronislaw Geremek said here on Wednesday.

He stressed that after September 19 the UD was not planning to enter into a coalition formed by the pre-1989 groupings and would be ready to uphold solutions promoting democratic character of the state and market oriented development of the economy.

Geremek said the UD would be ready to form a coalition respecting three basic principles: the system of parliamentary democracy, market character of reforms, and social policy protecting the weakest social groups.

Geremek termed the Democratic Left alliance as ambiguous in its relations with the past. On the Non-Party Reform Bloc (BBWR), Geremek said he understood neither the BBWR nor its lists. He added he was also unable to accept the Samoobrona (self-defence) Farmers' Union whose existence consisted in violating law.

PUNR Threatens Government Over Bilingual Issue

AU2508165293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1354 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—Following is a statement from the Romanian National Unity Party (PUNR):

"Considering the unconstitutional decision taken by the Council of Minorities on August 18 which aims to trigger a civil war in Romania grounded on interethnic conflicts artificially created and considering also the pressures put on the Government to adopt such a decision which would disregard the provisions of Constitution, PUNR declares:

If the Government takes into account [implements] the decision of the Council of Minorities, PUNR will present and sustain a 'no confidence' motion on the Vacaroiu government, for a decisive contribution to government change.

PUNR will initiate the urgent procedure provided by Article 95 of Constitution in order to suspend Romania's President Ion Iliescu.

PUNR places above everything the defense of the national being of the Romanian people, of its territorial integrity, of the Romanian unitary national state, of its sovereignty and independence," the statement reads.

The Council of Minorities previously decided that bilingual signs be installed wherever the minority counts more than ten percent of the population of a locality.

PUNR, PRM, Warn of 'Civil War'

AU2508194993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1742 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—In a letter addressed to Romania's President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, the Mures County branches of the Vatra Romaneasca National Union, the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR], and the Greater Romania Party [PRM] warn that if the proposals of the [National] Council of Ethnic Minorities regarding the bilingual signs, the setting up of separate schools and faculties for the national minorities will become effective, all Romanians "will vehemently protest." The document stresses that by extending the absurd privileges and claims of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania [UDMR] extremists, proved for the first time at Tirgu Mures [1990 ethnic clashes], conditions are put in place for repeating and changing events like those of March 1990 into a civil war across the country, for which the current power will be "directly responsible."

Ministry Denies Company Wants UN Resolution Revision

AU2508122993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] In connection with the news broadcast last night at 2200 local time [2000 GMT] by Belgrade Radio, according to which a Romanian river shipping state company allegedly demanded the cancellation or revision of UN Security Council Resolution 820, which stipulates the total blockage of traffic on the Danube, Mr. Paul Teodoru, minister of transportation of Romania, told our correspondent Ion Marinescu that no Romanian river company has issued such a request.

Here is the piece of news broadcast last night by Belgrade Radio, quote, the Yugoslav River Shipping is supporting the demand issued by the Romanian river company regarding the modification or the cancellation of UN Security Council Resolution 820, which stipulates the complete blockage of navigation on the Danube, said the general director of the Yugoslav River Shipping company Dusan Strugar.

As the TANJUG agency has learned, the broadcast news continues, this is the first demand by a foreign Danube shipping company to modify or cancel UN Security Council Resolution 820, end quote.

Constantinescu Says CDR Has 'Recovery Program'

AU2508171793 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1548 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—"The Democratic Convention [CDR] shall only united participate in any alternative of government, on the basis of its strategic program," said Emil Constantinescu, the president of the Democratic Convention, at a news conference on Wednesday, August 25.

The CDR president said the Convention not only had a recovery program but also the means to implement it as it had competent teams.

Referring to the extraordinary session of the Parliament convened on August 30, Emil Constantinescu said the political formations comprised by the CDR would not "obstruct" the session but they would ask to be debated first the preliminary report of the commission probing corruption cases. "Depending on different scenarios of the power the CDR together with the Democratic Party (National Salvation Front) would work out strategies including even a censure motion," the CDR leader said.

Court Postpones Trial of Rail Union Federation

AU2508182593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1516 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—The Bucharest 1 Sector [District] Court of Law has started the National Romanian Railway Corporation [SNCFR]

versus the engine drivers' unions trial. The railway company sued in court the [Free and Independent] Federation of Engine Drivers' Trade Unions of Romania, headquartered in Brasov, challenging the legality of the all-out strike started on August 11 and seeking damages estimated at some 50 billion lei and moral damages from the union federation.

At the beginning of the session, the company's representative, Teodor Cuzinov, said his institution renounced the trying of the civil claims, reserving the right to start separate trial for them. In turn, the representatives of the trade union federation, Ioan Vlad, Romeo Aldea, and Nicolae Buican, moved for the stay of the trial in the case until the completion of the criminal investigations being performed by the prosecution bodies, and also moving for adjournment, because the defendant had no attorney.

The court rejected, as being not substantiated, the defendant's motion for stay [suspension] of the trial, but then postponed the session, as the defendant had no attorney. According to the emergency procedures applicable to the case, the next session was set on Monday, August 30.

Unemployment Rate Reportedly Decreases

AU2508132693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1046 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—The fall of the number of jobless and of unemployment rate to 8.8 percent for the first time this year is also a first reflection of the job opportunities created by the private sector, ROMANIA LIBERA writes. According to statistic data quoted by the paper, in July the private sector offered 515,189 jobs. Over the same period state-owned companies made 26,215 employees redundant.

Of the 1,002,573 jobless registered with labor exchanges 62 percent are females, 794,414 are workers, 114,558 have high school training and 14,338 academic training. Of the total, 455,999 are recipients of unemployment benefits and 470,314 receive a subsistence allowance.

The decreasing unemployment rate is also explained by a government policy encouraging private companies to employ fresh university, high school and vocational school graduates against refund from unemployment funds of their wage expenses (calculated for the minimal all-nation wage of 30,000 lei) in a proportion of 70 percent for the former and 60 percent for the latter categories, leaving the employer to cover the balance.

Commission Reports Real Wages Increased in July

AU2508182693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1633 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—The National Commission for [Salary] Indexation analyzed in its meeting on August 25 in Bucharest a report by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the Ministry of Finance, as well as data supplied by the National Statistical Board regarding the consumer prices evolution and the real wage level in July 1993. It was noted that the consumer prices index actually recorded last July rose less than forecasted on calculating the indexation of the population's incomes, which led to a slight rise in the real wages.

They also discussed proposals conducive to the improvement of the current system of indexation to the end of applying a system differentiated by branches and subbranches of the economy, as well as by categories of the population, in keeping with their respective incomes.

It was agreed that the National Commission for Indexation should next meet in the third decade [week] of October 1993.

Ecological Political Organizations To Merge

AU2508172193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1427 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—The spokesman of the Ecological Movement of Romania [MER], Petre Terzi, announced in a news conference on Wednesday the merger of the National Ecological Party [PER] with MER, on the basis of the decisions taken on 13 June 1993, by the congresses of the two parties.

MER President Eduard Victor Gugui stated that the attitude toward the present power was one of reconciliation, even cooperation, in the fields where the movement could offer alternatives for the country's recovery.

League of Communists Officially Registered

AU2508192093 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 23 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Dumitru Augustin Doman: "Today, 23 August, the League of Communists of Romania Will Be Registered at Craiova Court"]

[Text] Today a group of initiative consisting of Gheorghe Ungureanu, a school inspector in the town of Curtea de Arges, Marian Trusca of Craiova, and Gheorghita Zbaganu, the brother of Virgil Zbaganu (the person who tried to reestablish the communist party, but died in an accident) will officially register the League of Communists of Romania at Craiova City Court. According to one of the three leaders, the league is intended to be an organization supporting the cause of the communist movement and the working class.

No former leaders of the old RCP [Romanian Communist Party] are accepted as members of the league. Ordinary RCP members may join the organization, but their number cannot exceed one-third of the entire membership.

The three leaders made a point of it that the registration should be definitely be made on 23 August [Romania's national day during the communist regime]. That is the reason they applied for the registration well in advance.

The league actually started its activity on 21 August, when they went to the Capra cemetery on Pantelimon road in Bucharest to commemorate the death [in 1992] of Virgil Zbaganu.

Weekly Views Extent of Currency, Passport Forgery

AU2508132893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0923 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—Checks, passports, money (Romanian and foreign) are currently being forged in Romania, even lottery tickets with metal insertion have been faked, weekly FLACARA writes. With such false and stolen checks goods are being bought, while false passports are most often found on Iranians, Pakistanis transiting Romania. Most of the counterfeit money comes to Romania via Italy, Germany, Austria or Lebanon, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq. Here, a chief of one of the dealer networks takes over the 'dough' at half price and then forwards it to distributors. In 1990 the Romanian Police detected about 250 fake banknotes, and then the boom came: over 700 in 1991, about 1,000 in 1992 and many more, it seems, this year.

From police sources, FLACARA found out that money forging is very profitable in Romania and hard to trace. Two are the ways of counterfeiting: by false reproduction of the entire banknote and by changing its value (from 5 to 50 dollars, for instance). Similarly, with the aid of colour photocopiers and laser devices Romanian 200, 500, 1,000 and 5,000 lei banknotes have been forged.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 26 August
WA2608163093

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Muslims block UN aid convoy from leaving Mostar; Croats mine dam ... AFP says NATO officials favor air strikes to protect aid convoys to Mostar ... French, Muslim troops exchange fire, officers wounded ... Yugoslav Army chief Panic, 42 generals replaced.

HUMANITARIAN AID

MUSLIMS BLOCK CONVOY IN MOSTAR (TANJUG): Claiming that the presence of UN relief trucks protected them from Croatian shelling, 150 Muslim women and children, according to TANJUG, blocked a UN aid convoy from leaving Mostar. Sarajevo Radio reports Croats mined dam at hydroelectric power plant. (LD2608111893, AU2608090593)

NATO OFFICIALS FAVOR AIR STRIKES: AFP quotes "diplomats" saying NATO officials are in "complete agreement" that "NATO should launch air strikes" to protect UN convoys approaching Mostar "if asked to do so by the United Nations." (AU2508142793)

POLITICAL

PANIC, 42 GENERALS REPLACED (TANJUG): FRY President Lilic announces Yugoslav Army chief Panic replaced by General Perisic, 42 generals fired. (LD2608132893)

FRENCH, MUSLIM TROOPS EXCHANGE FIRE: AFP reports Muslim forces "admitted firing on" French UNPROFOR unit, seriously wounding its commander. Sarajevo Radio says French wounded officer when it "opened fire" at Muslim positions in response. (AU2608121893, LD2508203793)

Muslims Continue To Block UN Relief Convoy in Mostar

LD2608111893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1015 GMT 26 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 26 (TANJUG)—A U.N. relief convoy which early on Thursday [26 August] delivered food to Bosnian Moslems in Mostar, a town in the south of Bosnia-Herzegovina, remained blocked in the city by Moslem civilians who claimed its presence protected them from Croatian shelling.

The 27-truck convoy was stopped by a group of about 150 Moslem women and children and vehicles parked across the road, according to REUTERS. Some U.N. officials said they were being held as hostages and treated as traitors.

Bosnian Moslem military officials said the civilians were also preventing the convoy from leaving because Croat forces, as they said, had used the cease-fire declared for the arrival of the convoy to mine a dam on a river north of the city.

The U.N. convoy arrived to the Moslem part of Mostar on Wednesday night with food and medical supplies for 55,000 civilians who have been beseiged there by Bosnian Croats since June.

Bosnian Moslems and Croats, formerly allied against Bosnian Serbs, have been clashing bitterly since this spring for supremacy in the territories with a mixed Moslem-Croat population. The fiercest Moslem-Croat clashes are being fought in the region of Mostar and in central Bosnia.

Croats Mine Mostar Dam

AU2608090593

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 26 August carries in its regular 18-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the Republic.

Reporting from Mostar, Senad Kamenica says that "sabotage groups of the extremist wing of the HVO and the Croatian Army mined last night the covers [poklopac] on the Mostar hydroelectric power station, and water burst through carrying everything in its way, including the improvised bridge (?Memici), which was the only connection with the right bank of the Neretva River. So the free territory on the right bank is now cut off and a fierce attack is expected to be launched against it. The people who remained on the right side are leaving in panic. Believing that it is their only salvation from a renewed artillery attack, the frightened people of Mostar have blocked the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] convoy, which brought them the long-expected food early this morning. At the moment, only sporadic small arms fire can be heard, and an occasional shell explosion."

In his report from the Doboj front, Mirudin Aldobasic says that "late last night the aggressor launched a heavy artillery attack on the residential areas and the defense lines. Hundreds of shells were fired at Mravici, Matuzici, (?Uvalice), and (?Alibegovci). By the way, helicopter flights were again registered overnight from the direction of Banja Luka to Mt. Ozren. Regrouping of enemy troops on the slopes of this mountain has also been noticed, indicating that the enemy has no intention of observing the cease-fire." He reminds the listeners that "the offensive on the free Doboj territories is in its third month."

Describing the situation in Brcko, Hamiz Deronjic says that "last night 60-mm and 82-mm mortars and antiaircraft guns shelled the defense lines in Bukovac, Lipovac, the central part of the front, Omerbegovaca, and Vranovaca. Dozens of shells were fired on every region of the defense, followed by heavy fire from Broving and M-84 machine guns. The enemy was firing with small arms along the entire 65-km-iong Brcko defense line."

Hasan Taric reports from Gracanica that "last night the enemy launched an artillery attack at (?Alagica Bunar) and (?Paleznica), which was followed by an infantry attack. The enemy used chemical agents in this attack, but the lines were not moved."

Reporting from Maglaj, Hajrudin Sermic describes yesterday's fighting, saying that "several Maljutka missiles were fired at the residential district of (?Krbeti)." As for the evening hours, he says that "the defense lines were targeted by antiaircraft guns and machine guns, small arms, and occasionally by 120-mm mortars."

Muslim Attacks Reported

LD2508205593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] Marko Pranjic special unit has destroyed a Muslim barracks at the entrance to Zavidovici in a sabotage operation. Several Muslim soldiers were killed.

Artillery battles were reported on the Zavidovici front. First the Muslims attacked Biljacic and Dubravica, using tanks and mortars, and then the HVO artillery launched a fierce counterattack, after which the fighting stopped. Three Zepce HVO members were wounded in today's fighting.

Aid Convoy Arrives

AU2508203893 Paris AFP in English 2021 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Zagreb, Aug 25 (AFP)—A convoy carrying vital supplies of food and medicine arrived in the besieged

southern Bosnian city of Mostar late Wednesday, a UN spookeswoman said, after being repeatedly barred from the city.

The 27-truck convoy and 12 escort vehicles entered the Croat district of western Mostar at around 8:00 p.m. (1800 GMT) after being held up most of the day by Croat protestors in a nearby town, said Alemka Lisinski of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Teams immediately began unloading eight truck-loads of supplies for the city's Croat population, she said.

However it was not immediately clear if the remaining 19 trucks would be allowed into the city's eastern sector, where 55,000 far worse-off Moslems have been besieged for the past three months by Croat forces.

Earlier around 300 mainly women protestors blocked the convoy for several hours on the road between Medjugorje and Mostar. Zagreb television said they were refugees from central Bosnia demanding aid for Croats besieged by Moslems in that region.

Meanwhile the United Nations decided late Wednesday to airdrop supplies to Moslems in Mostar for the second night in a row.

"New air drops are scheduled for tonight," said UNHCR spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume, adding, "Mostar remains the number one priority."

It was not known which of the Western allies would carry out the air drops, said another spokesman, Ron Redmond. "Technical details for such operations are never announced in advance," he added.

On Tuesday night, after Croat forces had repeatedly prevented the convoy from going to Mostar, the UNHCR asked the United States, Germany, France and Britain to parachute aid to the Moslems.

A few hours later U.S. military transport planes dropped some 11 tons of food rations into the zone.

Although the UN called the operation a "total success," it said bringing in food by road would be a far more useful way to save the Moslem population from starvation.

Sarajevo Radio on Aid

AU2508191993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Izudin Sahovic from Mostar]

[Excerpts] As I send this report, that is, at about 1830 the announced convoy carrying humanitarian aid meant for the starving citizens of Mostar has still not arrived here. As Croatian Television reported in its newscast at 1600, the convoy was stopped in Medjugorje by women, who wanted the passage of the food for Mostar conditional on aid being sent to Croats in central Bosnia. [passage omitted]

The leaders of the so-called Croatian community of Herzeg-Bosnia claim that they absolutely support and are in no way obstructing the distribution of humanitarian aid anywhere, and do not set any conditions to it. However, this is followed by a condition: The food will arrive in Mostar, but only if there is an exchange of bodies of those killed in battle in Mostar. What is interesting is that the Croatian Defense Council has demanded only the bodies of Croatian Army soldiers in order to destroy the evidence of the involvement of the Republic of Croatia in the aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, the evidence of Croatia's involvement in crimes against the Muslim population and aggression against a sovereign neighboring state cannot be destroyed. Along with Croatian Defense Council forces, yesterday's attack on Sjeverni Logor, Rastani, and the Mostar hydroelectric power station was carried out by one unit from Osijek, one from Sisak, and the Tigers [word indistinct] from Split. They were equipped with the most modern weapons and in extremely intense battles were supported by 15 tanks, mostly T-55's, about 10 multiple rocket launchers, and at least three howitzer batteries. This was said in a report issued by the Fourth Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina issued today. [passage omitted]

Last night, despite the cease-fire, the Croatian Defense Council and the Croatian Army constantly carried out provocations using all kinds of weapons: mortars, howitzers, and tanks. The Fourth Corps Command has sent a strong protest to UNPROFOR. Last night again, a light aircraft of the Republic of Croatia dropped several bombs on Mostar, but fortunately without any serious consequences. [passage omitted]

UN Praises U.S. Airdrop

AU2508132993 Paris AFP in English 1308 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Geneva, May 25 (AFP) - Bosnian Croats renewed a blockade of a UN aid convoy Wednesday as it attempted for the second straight day to reach 55,000 besieged Muslims in the southern Bosnian city of Mostar, UN officials said.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) here said Croat civilian protestors had barred the convoy, carrying some 275 tonnes of food and medicine, as it tried to leave the town of Medjugorje, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Mostar.

The Bosnian Croat militia, which controls the road into Mostar, had earlier prevented the convoy from leaving Medjugorje.

Meanwhile the UN in Sarajevo hailed as a great success an airdrop on the Muslim sectors of the beleaguered southern Bosnian city.

The mission overnight Tuesday was a "great success," said UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokeswoman Patricia Purves.

The airdrop saw two U.S. military Hercules transport planes discharge 11 tonnes of food in the form of 13,500 individual rations wrapped in plastic in predesignated areas, Purves said.

But Purves stressed that airdrops with their limited cargo loads were "not the solution" to the humanitarian crisis facing the city.

One or more road convoys needed to be allowed urgent access to the city's Muslim population, she added.

The food had been dropped in individual sachets rather than bulk consignments to avert the danger of inhabitants being killed or injured by parachuted pallets, Purves said.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs said similar overnight drops by three other Hercules aircraft had deposited 26 tonnes of food on the northern Bosnian towns of Tesanj and Maglaj.

Earlier in Zagreb UNPROFOR spokeswoman Alemka Lisinski said UN observers had been able to enter the beleaguered city at dawn Wednesday.

They were supervising a ceasefire agreement signed the day before by the mainly Muslim Bosnian Army and Bosnian Croat forces, who have so far refused all access for aid to Muslim parts of the city.

By midday the ceasefire appeared to be holding, the UN said.

Zagreb television reported that Cedric Thornberry, UNPROFOR's top civilian officer, was negotiating with Bosnian Croat forces and Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic so that the convoy could deliver its cargo.

Sachs said 19 of the trucks were destined for the Muslim sector of the city, which has been without food, running water, electricty and medicaments for weeks.

They were carrying 175 tonnes of aid including medical kits, basic medicines, powdered milk and babyfood, Sachs said, adding they would need to be followed by numerous other convoys in order to tackle the crisis in the sector.

The remainder of the trucks, bearing about 100 tonnes of aid, are destined for the Croat sector.

French, Muslim Officers Wounded in Igman Firing

LD2508203793 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Excerpt] This day will be remembered for yet another tragic incident which took place at 1120, when a member of the French battalion, Captain Jacomo, was wounded. It is not certain who wounded him, but it is certain that UN Protection Forces [UNPROFOR] units, i.e. units of the French battalion, opened fire at our positions and wounded one of the officers of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. The Commander of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army on Mount Igman insisted on setting up a mixed Bosnia-Herzegovina Army-French battalion working group to carry out a thorough investigation into this incident. [passage omitted]

AFP Reports Incident

AU2508152193 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Zagreb, Aug 25 (AFP)—A French soldier with the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina was seriously wounded Wednesday [25 August] on Mount Igman to the south of Sarajevo and was due to be sent home for emergency medical treatment, a French military source in Zagreb said.

The French soldier, who was on an UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] position between the Serb and Moslem forces on Mount Igman, was hit in the chest.

He was to be evacuated by UNPROFOR to the port city of Split in Croatia and then transported to Paris aboard a French military plane, the source said.

A military official in Paris said the unnamed soldier had been hit by a sniper's bullet.

The French troops immediately opened fire with light weapons, he said, but was unable to say which side the shot had come from.

U.S. Ambassador: Sarajevo Situation 'Slightly Improved'

AU2508200493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] After his meeting with Mirko Pejanovic, member of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Viktor Jakovich, U.S. ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, made a statement for B-H PRESS:

After a brief absence I have returned to see the current situation in Sarajevo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The situation has slightly improved, though still not sufficiently. I do not think that it will until the city begins to live completely normally. These amounts of electricity and water still do not allow a normal life. Only when everyone has electricity, water, and gas, and when there is free movement to and from Sarajevo, can one say that normal life has returned.

I must say that there are already some signs of such a life returning. I walked through the town today and spoke to people who have opened their shops for the first time in 16 months. This is encouraging, but I repeat, we cannot be satisfied with only these signs.

This was stated by Ambassador Jakovich.

Sarajevo 'Executive Committee' Rejects Ethnic Division

AU2508153393 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] At its session today, the Executive Committee of the Sarajevo District discussed the position and functioning of Sarajevo in the light of the Geneva negotiations and the open city (?status) under the temporary protectorate of the United Nations. Here is Stevo Latinovic reporting on the session:

[Begin Latinovic recording] [Words indistinct] and decide was easy and at the same time was not so. It would have been easy if the needs and desires of the members of this body [words indistinct]. However, the reality is far from these desires, although it is identical with the desires of the citizens of the Bosnia-Herzegovina capital. (?Nobody) considers the division of the state or its capital city on ethnic lines acceptable. Members of the committee are of the opinion that [words indistinct] that the protectorate would slowly lead to an ethnic and political division of the city. The very term of an open city is (?unclear), incomplete, and hides some (?more) (?unforeseen) traps. Owing to the communications and information blockade, the public has still not been informed about the course of the negotiations, so it is still not clear what is what in the points that have been agreed upon so far. It was said at the session that the city must live as an united and homogeneous entity with a united (?police) and not one divided among communes.

[Words indistinct], taking all circumstances into account, in the further course of the negotiations one should keep in mind that with the offered solution Bosnia-Herzegovina will be literally (?economically smothered) by such a division and surrounding. Traffic, electricity potentials, (?rivers), [words indistinct] are blocked from the Bosnian state. This is all affecting [word indistinct] of the capital city.

These were only some [word indistinct] and expert stands by the members of the Executive Committee which will be drafted into conclusions. A delegation (?of the committee) will submit these conclusions to the Assembly. These conclusions mainly (?boil down) to the following: One should continue negotiations, albeit not about maps (?made) according to (?ethnic principle) itself created by genocide. One should unify the key functions of the city and (?police) at the central level. In addition to Sarajevo, open city status should be given to Mostar and Banja Luka. Of course, all this [words indistinct] and cease of combat activities and establishing peace on the entire territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This was the stand of the Executive Committee of the District of Sarajevo. [end recording]

UNPROFOR To Arrange for Deputies To Attend Session

AU2508191893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Deputies of the Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina today held a consultative meeting to prepare the assembly session that will be held in Sarajevo on Friday [27 August]. Assembly Chairman Miro Lazovic told those present that UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces] has taken it upon itself to bring the deputies from all regions safely to this session. The Assembly is expected to achieve a quorum and to be able to make valid decisions on the new document from the Geneva conference. This will be the only point on the agenda.

In addition to the deputies, some 200 guests, prominent public, cultural, and scientific workers from Sarajevo, Tuzla, and Zenica, have also been invited to attend the session. The meeting will have the character of an assembly session [sabor], but only the deputies will have the right to vote on the decisions.

There is a possibility of the deputies from the Bihac region holding a session in Bihac at the same if UNPROFOR cannot secure their transportation to Sarajevo.

At today's consultative meeting it was particularly stressed that the problem of refugees should be given priority, and that mechanisms to guarantee their return to their homes should be sought. The Assembly is expected to express its view on the Geneva documents and present proposals to improve them.

Serb Minister Assails Dutch, German Moves on Accord

LD2508212993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2106 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Novi Sad, August 25 (TANJUG)—The attempts by the Netherlands and Germany to have some provisions of the latest Geneva agreement reviewed show that a section of the international community does not care about peace in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Foreign Minister of the Bosnian republic of Srpska Aleksa Buha said on Wednesday [25 August].

Speaking for Novi Sad radio, Buha said the plan's concept was such that only the three parties concerned—Moslems, Serbs and Croats—can change it by agreement.

'The initiatives of The Hague and Bonn put an ace in the hand of Bosnian Moslem Leader Alija Izetbegovic and the Moslem parliament not to accept the proposed agreement and this at a moment when peace is at hand,' said Buha.

Commenting on the latest U.N. resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire on the soil of Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said it should be specified whom did it relate to.

'We have not been fighting with Croats already for five months, and we fight with Moslems only when we defend the established front lines,' said Buha.

Moslems and Croats, erstwhile allies against Bosnian Serbs, have been fiercely fighting each other in the last four months for control over the territories with mixed Moslem-Croat population.

Underground Military Facilities Viewed

93BA1393A Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 12 Jul 93 p 13

[Article by R. Nikolic: "Long-Kept Secrets"]

[Text] Construction of underground military facilities is customary practice in the world. These facilities have a variety of purposes, because they are being used both for peacetime needs and for security and national defense. They have been built both in our country and in the world. Hundreds of people have worked and built a number of facilities all over the former Yugoslavia. Experience in building these facilities helped a sizable portion of our construction crews to qualify for construction work which they did very successfully even abroad. The difference between us and the world, however, is that mentioning underground facilities in our country is accompanied by sensationalism, while in the rest of the world they write about such facilities more openly and publish photographs, especially in professional journals. For example, maps have been published showing NATO's underground command post.

This introduction is actually the beginning of a conversation that we conducted with Mr. Miodrag Kreckovic, a designer of tunnel structures, a construction engineer (now retired) with rich experience extending over several decades in building a number of underground facilities all over the former SFRY [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia]. Along with a familiarity with our own and world experiences in the field of underground construction, we also learn from Engineer Kreckovic a number of details about underground military facilities which are not on the territory of the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia], but are still attracting the attention of the public.

Detailed Description of Structure Near Konjic

Our informant recalled that after the conflict with the Soviet Union and the situation concerning the Cominform, the designing of underground structures was undertaken more seriously. The purposes were dual: to build structures that would help to meet the Army's operational needs and to provide for military industrial production. All security measures were taken in all phases of construction, from the design to the finalization, and in view of the strategy of defending the country against external enemies, the structures were built far from the borders, in the country's central portion.

First in a number of underground tunnel facilities which were built was the structure near Konjic. Engineer Kreckovic was involved in building the tunnel structures near Konjic as a designer in the final phase of construction. The structure was completed in 1963 (it took a few years to build), and the purpose was to transfer part of the production of the Igman-Konjic Ammunition Factory to plants underground. The location was fixed a few kilometers from Konjic, upstream of the road along the Neretva.

That underground ammunition factory extends over about 20,000 square meters and consists of five galleries. These are five parallel tunnels which run under a hill, and at one end of their length all the galleries are connected by a single tunnel. The height of the galleries, that is, of the tunnels which are production plants, is 4 meters, and the tunnels are 6 meters wide, wall to wall. The walls are concrete, because the nature of the terrain required that, because the surrounding rock is limestone. The tunnel-factory has appropriate insulation, ventilation, sanitary spaces, and electric lighting, and in case of interruption of the power supply from the main network, the factory switches to its own backup power supply.

Even 30 years ago, immediately after the work was done, machines were moved into the structure, and the factory was started up. At the beginning, only locker rooms were made, but rooms for feeding the workers were made through subsequent adaptation.

Command Post in the Immediate Vicinity

Simultaneously with this structure, another tunnel structure was built in its immediate vicinity (they are separated only by a brook), and it was later adapted as a command post. It consists of two vertical tunnels connected at the end by a tunnel and transversely connected by another two tunnels. The total area of the command post is about 6,000 square meters, and there are spaces for communications, offices, war rooms, dormitories, and a medical room. The height and shapes of the tunnels are identical for the two structures, and air conditioning and ventilation have been installed. Protective ventilation should the air outside be contaminated has also been incorporated. Immediately after construction and the startup of the factory, as we have already written, these structures were visited by Josip Broz.

In the conversation with Engineer Kreckovic, we learned that the structures were not built to standards of luxury, but they were the first conceptions and first experiences in building underground structures and were accordingly relatively modest in appearance. Then we learned from our informant that at the same time the structures were built at Konjic, a similar underground tunnel structure was built near Gorazde. The precise location is in the vicinity of the village Kopaci, and it was built as an underground facility for the Pobeda Ammunition Factory in Gorazde. The structure is of somewhat smaller size, its area is between 12,000 and 14,000 square meters, and the designer of the finishing work was

Engineer Kreckovic. The structure looks the same as the one near Konjic, but this time there are four galleries, that is, tunnels, connected by one tunnel at the end. The geological conditions for construction were somewhat more difficult in this terrain, because the surrounding rocks are schists, but in spite of the difficult conditions, the protection was very well done. However, the facility near Gorazde was not immediately put into operation. Machines were not moved in, although the tunnel had long before been completely equipped, and as far as Engineer Kreckovic knows, the facility did not operate until 1990. Our informant does not know what happened after that.

What Is the Villa Zagorka Hiding?

In the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, there are many underground facilities intended for the Army and defense of the country, and Eng. Miodrag Kreckovic recalled locations such as Travnik, Mostar, Bugojno, Novi Travnik.... Near the airport in Mostar, for example, on the left bank of the Neretva (this is the airport for jets), a sizable underground structure was built as an airplane hangar. To be sure, this structure is of somewhat smaller size and area than the one at Bihac, but they are similar in all other respects.

However, the section of our conversation with Mr. Kreckovic concerning the villa Zagorka in Zagreb sounds particularly interesting. That is, in the mid-1960's a reinforced-concrete shelter was built in the ground underneath that villa for Josip Broz and his wife and their immediate associates. It is not a question, then, of the military purposes of the shelter, but of a personal shelter consisting of two rooms for daytime life, two bedrooms, a dining room, one office, and a bathroom. In addition, rooms were also built for several of Broz' closest associates and for security personnel. Today, incidentally, the villa Zagorka is Tudjman's residence.

Even in Zagreb itself, in the vicinity of Ilica, there is also an underground tunnel facility that is a command post, built at one time to meet the needs of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army]....

The stories about underground facilities, military, but also for other purposes, do not stop there. Eng. Miodrag Kreckovic recalled that in the 1950's, before construction began, our experts traveled to Sweden and studied their experience, and in the foreign literature particular use was made of French sources and knowledge. He also recalled the peacetime purposes of underground structures. For example, the Swedes built an ice cream factory and shelter underground, in Norway a skating and hockey rink are being built underground for the winter Olympics, and in Finland there are swimming pools and concert halls underground....

Ganic Statement on 'Brotherhood' With Serbs Viewed

93BA1357B Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 pp 18-19

[Article by Dr. Nenad Kecmanovic: "The Fateful Turnaround in Lisbon"]

[Text] An alleged interview with [Bosnian Vice President] Ejup Ganic in the magazine SARAJEVO, which is published in the Arabic language in Ljubljana, has demonstrated that everything is possible in the Bosnian stewpot, or, the "Black Cauldron," as its capital was referred to by the late Nika Milicevic, who was learned and knowledgeable about the history of things in these parts. Not only was no one surprised when Fikret Abdic made a public appeal to Izetbegovic to give up the illusions of foreign intervention, removal of the arms embargo, and an international protectorate and halt the war propaganda through the central media which he controls, it even was in line with almost all forecasts. But Ejup Ganic's starting to talk about "brotherhood with the Serbs" was as unexpected as it would have been difficult to predict that the shining Olympic city would, so to speak, overnight be cruelly razed to the level of a concentration camp with horrible human suffering, humiliation, and misery.

The flow of Muslims from this to the other side of the Drina has a very long prehistory, and so voter tourism (also characteristic of the other two ethnic parties in the first multiparty elections) has occurred in the case of the people from Sandzak with no return ticket and has only intensified a migrational trend that already existed. Because the Muslims on both sides of the river were organized in the same political party (the SDA [Democratic Action Party]), and because their joint supreme leader (Alija Izetbegovic) quickly entered into an armed confrontation with the partners in the coalition, the zealous response at the polls and recruiting centers was a matter both of party discipline and of the military obligation. Most of the reputable Muslims in the marketplace, and for that matter most of the urban inhabitants belonging to the other two nationalities, in times of peace mainly looked askance at the crude, rustic, aggressive, and go-getting newcomers, but, frightened by the advancing cataclysm of war, they opened their arms to those from Sandzak as to their own coming from Nevesinje and Gacani, from Pale and Krajina. At the beginning of the war, they in fact held the outer lines of the front while the rascals from the carsija like Juka Prazina and his ilk concerned themselves with internal order, but as the war went on and became increasingly large-scale and cruel, those from Sandzak took over increasingly important positions in the Army (Sefer Halilovic) and the police (Jusuf Pusina) and war profiteering. The importance of their only representative in high-level politics—Ejup Ganic—increased parallel to that rise.

At the outset of the postbolshevik era and politics based on ethnicity, he seemed to be an entirely marginal figure,

because he was not a member of the SDA, but a member of the Reformist Presidium, he had not declared his nationality as a Muslim, but as a Yugoslav, Belgrade student, and American doctor, visiting professor at Lomonosov University in Moscow, and director of the confidential UNIS Institute, a teacher in the School of Mechanical Engineering at Sarajevo University. Ejup Ganic could, above all, have been a personal verification of the otherwise completely unconvincing deviation of the SDA toward the so-called civil option. That is why the uninformed even believed that American support for the Balkan melting pot, that is, the Bosnian stewpot, the unitary melting of the three nationalities, was addressed more to this young technocrat than to the elderly writer of the Islamic Declaration (Alija Izetbegovic), more than even to the refined diplomat from the Islamic theological seminary in Cairo (Haris Silajdzic), not to mention the figure who represents continuity of the statehood of Bosnia-Herzegovina with the anachronistic manners of the bolshevik mass organizer (Nijaz Durakovic), or Rasim Kadic and Zlatko Lagundzija, who, for all their energy, talent, and ambition, did not have the necessary political legality and legitimacy.

Yugoslav and Nationalist

In the shadow of that public image, Ejup Ganic, whom the SDA designated as a candidate for the seventh position reserved for the ethnic category "others" in order to get some kind of a Muslim as a third member of the Presidency, rapidly developed from Izetbegovic's trainee to the eminence grise of the Sarajevo regime and the militant ethnic conscience of the Muslim leader, already spent and feeble militarily and politically, morally and psychologically, ready to withdraw from politics and go back to theological tracts. In the course of Ganic's evolution, however, the well-informed did not escape the fact that in the meantime Ganic, aside from any legal basis or political logic, had been promoted to vice president of the state, and that long ago at the airport he had self-confidently shouted to the isolated Izetbegovic over the telephone, but in the presence of the eyes and ears of the television audience, "Alija, now I am the chief of state, now I am making the decisions...." Least of all, however, is it known that there is allegedly evidence that Ejup Ganic gave his consent to the bloody operation in the Street of Volunteers (Dobrovoljacka Ulica), when Kukanjac's command of the headquarters of the Sarajevo Military District was halted in the withdrawal from the city that had been agreed with the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces]. In any case, at the moment when the wounded officers of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] were being finished off with bullets in the back of the head on the paving stones in the center of the city, the most responsible person in the Sarajevo regime was none other than Ejup Ganic.

Suspicious Connections

This unpleasant fact would be recalled by Alija Delimustafic, at that time a member of the government and a distinguished businessman, in response to charges that he was no longer fit to be minister of internal affairs because he had been an intermediary in exchange of war prisoners between the JNA and Zagreb during the conflict in Slavonia. It is also indicative that Abdulah Sisic, known as Dedo, the chief of the paramilitary formation which committed the war crime in Dobrovoljacka, was executed with a shot in the back a few months after that under unusual circumstances and perhaps because he was an inconvenient witness.

According to the testimony of newly arrived refugees from Sarajevo, the belief is very widespread that Ejup Ganic long ago ceased to be Alija Izetbegovic's closest collaborator and that their roles have been reversed. Relying more and more on people from Sandzak as a kind of Pretorian guard, the leader of Muslims not only from Bosnia has gradually fallen under the influence, if not the complete control, of the most militant segment of his followers, that is, of their political leader. In the last phase, on the eve of the most recent round of talks in Geneva, this would distance him from the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which until recently had been loyal, occasionally almost to the point of confrontation, over the dilemma of whether he would finally sit down at the same table with Mate Boban and especially Radovan Karadzic.

How is one to interpret the spectacular somersault of this Muslim politician, who even in the number and severity of anti-Serbian statements was the convincing leader not only among members of his own party, but even among his fellows in the Sarajevo Presidency and government? Was he heeding Abdic's recommendation that he shed illusions about foreign military intervention, the lifting of the arms embargo, and an international protectorate? Did the military superiority of Mladic's unit, against which the so-called Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina supposedly did not win a single major battle, convince Ganic that the fellow members of his nationality had gotten involved in a hopelessly one-sided competition that led to a definitive defeat? Is it a question of disappointment in the Croats who until recently had been partners in the coalition or of a tardy afterthought that allies had been chosen mistakenly? Is it perhaps a case of a political maneuver calculated to present a threat to the disloyal Bosnian Croats, who anyway are not very numerous, to the effect that if they continue they may perhaps find themselves facing a practically two-thirds majority of concerted Serbs and Muslims? In difficult moments for the Sarajevo regime and Muslim nationality, does Ganic sometimes feel nostalgia for his native Sandzak in Serbia or the longing of a former Yugoslav and Reformist for the large old homeland which was sufficiently expansive for not only all the Serbs, but also all the Muslims to live in one state? Is Ganic only the first of the leaders of the SDA to fulfill Momcilo Krajisnik's prophecy that at some point the Muslims would bitterly regret that they had thoughtlessly rejected Belgrade's initiative, that is, the so-called historic agreement?

The Consequences of Lisbon

Regardless of which of these suppositions or possibly some other supposition concerning Ganic's motives was closest to the truth, the very content of fragments from the interview in SARAJEVO of Ljubljana indicates not only the prior, but also the subsequent immaturity of a national policy, that is, of one of its prominent representatives and protagonists. The unprincipled coalition of Muslims and Croats against the Serbs first in the parliament of Bosnia-Herzegovina and then in the referendum to create an independent state, and then again on the battlefield, was certainly one of the causes, or at least generators, of the bloody ethnic-religious war. The ganging up of two on one even in any other combination could even in the future lead only to new bloodshed, because its objective is military capitulation, political defeat, if not biological extermination of one of the three constituent nationalities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Izetbegovic's *Islamska Deklaracija* (*Islamic Declaration*) itself contains the instruction that until the Muslims become an absolute majority in one state thanks to their high birth rate and are capable of imposing secular relations "democratically" in keeping with the Koran, they should tactically adapt to the current balance of power and prepare for the future. Ejup Ganic, younger, less patient, and a more radical and inattentive reader of this programmatic tract, it seems, still in the phase of "adaptation" moved on to "imposition," and did so not only when the balance of power was at least seemingly two on one, but even when it had been established at one against two.

Even the former Yugoslavia was too cramped as a joint state for the Serbs and Croats, and in cramped and hilly Bosnia the Muslims proved to be more a detonator of their new conflicts than a catalyst for rapprochement. It is quite certain that no one can reproach the persistent and increasingly isolated Izetbegovic-Ganic tandem or, as many are saying even now, the Ganic-Izetbegovic tandem, for having taken the lead in the ethnic movement, nor for wanting the largest possible ethnic territory for fellow members of their nationality, because that is the irrepressible trend of these times, not only in these parts, but one which has not spared any of the other nationalities and ethnic minorities of the former Yugoslavia and East Europe as a whole.

They are certainly least of all to blame for Bosnia looking like a tiger skin in its territorial ethnic structure. The enormous Muslim human victims bleeding on the altar of creating their own state have presumably convinced the world at long last that the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in spite of certain departures from the sociological definition of a nation and specific ethnogenesis, are nevertheless really a nationality and not a bolshevik invention or Tito's courting of nonaligned friends from the Arab countries, and that in the new world-historical constellation they cannot remain the Palestinians of the Balkans without a foot of ethnic territory either. However, the disastrous mistake of the Muslim political leadership, which it will not be forgiven either by opponents or followers, is the fatal "Lisbon turnabout" at the moment when events in the Bosnian drama were moving fastest. They withdrew the still wet signature from the Carrington-Cutilheiro plan only to come back to it a year later, after unprecedented human sufferings and destruction of property, only now in Geneva and with Owen and Stoltenberg as authors.

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Although, of course, this need not have any directly practical importance, analysts even now, and later probably historians as well, are beset by the riddle of what actually was the background of that disastrous change of direction.

First and least convincing is the official explanation that the leadership of that ethnic party all of a sudden, in the middle of the story, discovered the phenomenon of the "tiger skin," that is, that the ethnic concept is unsuitable for Bosnia, and that they should turn toward some civil or quasi-Titoist, quasi-partisan, and ultimately unitary concept.

Second, and somewhat more convincing, is that the top leadership of the SDA discovered the possibility of achieving a unitary state as a framework of Muslim hegemony by manipulating the naive support of the multiethnic opposition and the minority of Bosnian Serbs and Croats, who identify more with native territory than with nationality.

Third, which is only a variation of the previous one, is the alliance, above all, tactical, with the weaker Croatian partner against the stronger Serbian partner so that in the finale a second relatively easier front would be opened on the assumption that the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina with a 90-percent pure ethnic composition must liberate every foot of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The fourth explanation, which is becoming plausible even to critics of series of morbid international conspiracies, is that the ethnically political top leadership of the Muslims was consciously or unconsciously cruelly pulled by the nose from outside. They were promised support for creation of a unified civil Bosnia-Herzegovina—international political support, and ultimately, if needed, even military support. The Western world, which has testified to its adverse attitude toward militant Islam, that is, preferred a mixing of the Muslims with the Christian majority of Catholics and Orthodox in the Bosnian melting pot of nationalities to a complex state in which still in Lisbon, that is, before the war, not only the Serbs and Croats, but also the Muslims would get precisely marked-out ethnic territory. In that same arrangement, Izetbegovic had a different calculation which should be read in the Islamic Declaration: adapt until achievement of a majority of the population. Following the rejection of the Lisbon document, by agreement that was the recognition of the so-called civil referendum and then the unprecedented expeditious acceptance into the United Nations. And then came the war. Izetbegovic

coolly lost battles at the front and intensified the impression of an unprotected victim with insinuations away from the battlefield (the massacre in the bread line), and he rejected without much consideration Milan Panic the peacemaker, who spoiled the plan for promised foreign intervention on the basis of "the worse it is, the better it is." But because the second half of the promise has not been fulfilled even in the stated term of the past year, and no later than this very day, everything went back to the beginning except that everything is nevertheless completely different along the line of the scenario described. The Muslims have suffered the most in numerical terms, members of that nationality have also been the leaders in the resettlement without return, far outside the borders of the homeland, and they are also on the threshold of a military capitulation. From the central section of Sarajevo, which as a practical matter is the full extent of the Ganic-Izetbegovic power, the Croats have mostly left already, the Serbs, who have applied for convoys, are awaiting the first results of the newly formed Karadzic commission at Pale, and the Muslims who are not at the front or working as labor conscripts, from what the most recent refugees say, are mainly learning English. It is not a question of waiting for a UN protectorate or of preparing to be ready to go out into the world when the denouement is obviously close. It sounds incredible, but after those who resold the humanitarian aid, the persons most in demand in the city were teachers of English or those who know the language well. The price per hour for a lesson usually given to entire families has jumped from two to 20 German marks.

* Sarajevo Leaders Comment on Plans for Mandate

93P50278A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Aug 93 p 14

[Report by As'ad Taha]

[Excerpts] Sarajevo—Vahid Karavelic, the commander of the first brigade [as published; Karavelic is the Bosnian Army's I Corps commander], responsible for Sarajevo, described the calm which reigns over the city as "a false calm, which does not at all mean that the war has ended in Sarajevo. In fact, it is tantamount to a rest period for the Serbian forces to regroup after their intensive and continuous assault on the city, lasting for more than one and one-half months." The Bosnian commander told AL-HAYAH that he expects a Serbian attack soon on the surrounded Bosnian capital "unless something is achieved in Geneva." [passage omitted]

A Bosnian source explained to AL-HAYAH that the Islamic command fears for the fate of Sarajevo, which has driven it to accept placing the city under UN mandate for fear of things getting worse. Sources explained that this is due to the growing differences among the Muslims on the political level and even the level of their administrative apparatus and religious establishment. However, the most dangerous of these quarrels is the battle among the military commands; i.e., there are units which are not included under the Bosnian Army command and not subject to orders. The worst of them are the units of Commander Catun [name as published], which kidnap boys from the streets of the city and force them to dig trenches in the front lines. It is said that Catun has often rejected the capital's military and political commands' orders to stop attacking the Serbian forces, saying, "I will not stop as long as I can achieve an advance on the ground."

This commander—he is not a military man and is believed to have been a vagrant in the city who showed up suddenly—believes that an attempt to expand the ring of artillery around Sarajevo will put strain on the Serbs. He thinks that this will force them to bring in additional numbers of their forces and open gaps [elsewhere] which might extend from the city to the outside.

Bosnian sources consider that the increasing quarrels among the Muslims, threatening to bring military confrontations along the lines of what happened in Kabul, are the reason for Bosnian President Aliya Izetbegovic's hurry in announcing his acceptance in principle of the partition and of placing Sarajevo under an international mandate, which will permit the French unit in the UN protection force to gain control of the capital's administration in spite of the ever-increasing complaints of the populace over the "suspect" behavior of this unit.

The governor of the city, Mohamed Kresevljakovic, confirmed this and said that the French unit's forces are deploying quickly in the capital's districts, "and they have asked us to allow them to take some important positions, not to mention complete control of the airport."

Abdullah Hadrovic, manager of the Holiday Inn, where all of the foreign press is staying, said that "they are renting the houses that were owned by the Serbs and from which they were expelled at the beginning of the war, as if they were safeguarding [the Serbs'] property. Also, many French societies, among them the one headed by French President Mitterrand's wife, are preparing to come to the capital."

The city's governor told AL-HAYAH, justifying acceptance of the mandate, "We need a time of peace to recover ourselves." He explained that the plan offered in Geneva stipulates that Sarajevo will be administered by three Muslims, three Serbs, and three Croats, in spite of the fact that the great majority [of the people] are Muslims. "For this reason, we are working to transfer authority to the municipalities administration, in which we enjoy a large majority. The police will be entrusted with protecting civilians, and the majority of them will also be Muslims." He added, "We will not give up our weapons and will not repeat our painful experiences." [passage omitted]

Official Stresses Ending Hostilities With Serbs

LD2508175293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] The talks in Zagreb between the Croatian state delegation headed by Slavko Degoricija and the assistant cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, Knut Vollebaek, have resumed the process of negotiating on the package of agreements proposed to the Republic of Croatia and representatives of the Serbs in the UN-protected areas in Croatia by the cochairmen of the peace conference on the former Yugoslavia. Vladimir Kumbrija reports:

[Kumbrija] During talks yesterday Mr. Vollebaek conveyed to the Croatian delegation the proposals tabled by the rebel Serbs whom he had met in Plitvice. The Croatian state delegation presented its response to the proposals today. Following the talks held behind closed doors, Mr. Vollebaek said that the gap between the two sides is considerable and that a long path will have to be crossed before the gap is bridged. If a solution is not found, Vollebaek went on to say, we are concerned that military clashes might escalate again.

The head of the Croatian delegation, Slavko Degoricija, viewed the current situation at the negotiations like this:

[begin Degoricija recording] We are ready to deal with all topics referring to any activity for ending hostilities, ending the war, establishing peace, and solving the Serbian issue in Croatia—political, economic and all other issues—through additional, separate agreements at all levels, but the condition for the continuation of talks is the signing of a cease-fire agreement, an agreement on halting hostilities (?of both sides), and only when this comes into effect can we go a step further. [end recording]

[Kumbrija] The Geneva agreement is the basis for any further talks. He who fails to sign it opts for war, Degoricija also said. We are ready to sign it. We have objections to only three of the 13 items in the agreement, Slavko Degoricija said in conclusion.

Serbs Tell Visiting UN Official of Attacks

AU2508170693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Report by Danko Peric from Krajina]

[Excerpt] (?Kotianan), UN undersecretary for peace operations, arrived in Knin at about 1300. A news conference is under way. Prior to this, he held talks with a Krajina delegation led by prime minister Djordje Bjegovic. In a brief statement for journalists before the meeting, Krajina's foreign minister Slobodan Jarcevic said that the prominent UN representative will have explained to him the shortcomings and inaccuracies in the documents sent by the Croatian officials to New York, documents that are being treated as official documents at the United Nations.

The general command of the Serbian army of Krajina stated that the fiercest artillery attacks by the Croatian Army in the last 24 hours were in and around the Benkovac region. The attacks did not stop even after Krajina lodged a protest to UNPROFOR [UN Protection Forces]. [passage omitted]

Fierce Clashes in Northern Dalmatia

LD2608104093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0926 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Knin, 26 Aug (TANJUG)—Fighting continues on the battlefields of north Dalmatian and Lika. A statement issued by the command of the Serb forces in Croatia reports that several civilians were wounded on the Benkovac front and five on the Lika front in major Croatian artillery attacks. [passage omitted]

No official reports have been released about the clashes this morning, but they were so intense that shell explosions could be heard in Knin.

It has been unofficially learned that clashes took place on the Miljevci plateau. Croatian forces attempted a breakthrough from the plateau but ran into their own minefield. It has also been unofficially reported that Serbian forces responded fiercely to the Croatian Army attack.

Peterle, Andreatta To Discuss 'Open Issues'

AU2608082893 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 0500 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta is paying a brief visit to Slovenia today. In the talks with Slovene Foreign Minister Lojze Peterle in Bled they are to discuss primarily the open issues on both sides. The Slovene side will also strive to win Italy's support in Slovenia's approaching negotiations with the EC to sign the association agreement. Zvone Zorko comments:

[Begin Zorko recording] There are some open issues in the relations between Slovenia and neighboring Italy as a result of which relations between the two states have not been at their best recently. There is primarily the issue of overall protection of the Slovene minority in Italy and some of Italy's recent measures that have deteriorated even further the position of the Slovene minority. The atmosphere particularly cooled following the Italian Government's decision to use the army to protect the border with Slovenia.

Regardless of all this, it nevertheless seems that both sides are willing to seriously discuss all open issues at the highest level and resolve them, if possible. [Words indistinct] such talks at the level of foreign ministers, although informal, took place at the meeting of the Central European Initiative in Budapest in mid-July. This was followed by talks between the Slovene and Italian government delegations in Strmol, when they agreed to form several working groups that are supposed to commence work in September, a visit by Italian Foreign Minister Andreatta, and a meeting of the prime ministers of both countries, scheduled for autumn, which, judging by Slovene diplomatic circles, is intended to bring relations between the neighboring states to a higher level.

Beside resolving open bilateral issues, it is also very important for Slovenia to win Italy's sympathy and support in the forthcoming negotiations with the EC to sign the association agreement. Italy is the only EC member bordering with Slovenia and will, thus, play an important role in these negotiations that will probably be rather tough. For example, Ambassador Bruno Bottai [name as received], general secretary in the Italian Foreign Ministry, during the talks in Strmol stated that Italy was willing to assist Slovenia in its cooperation with the EC and the WEU [West European Union]. If this proves to be the case during the visit by Italian Foreign Minister Andreatta, too, then this would be very significant for us and would confirm the belief that this represents a new Italian stance, resulting from the fact that a stable and democratic Slovenia is a precondition for stability in this region, which is doubtless also in Italy's interest. [end recording]

Top Officials Involved in Bosnian Arms Deal

93BA1365A Ljubljana MLADINA in Slovene 10 Aug 93 p 6

[Article by Miha D. Stamcar and Jani Sever: "They All Knew"]

[Text] *After the triumphant discovery of weapons at the Maribor airport, it is increasingly clearer that everyone who means anything in Slovene politics knew about the aid to the Bosnian Government in the form of weapons.*

We already mentioned last week that the entire Slovene leadership knew about the arms trade and the transportation of the weapons across Slovene territory. It was a principled decision to help occupied Bosnia-Herzegovina and, apparently, the Bosnian Muslims in particular. High-level Slovene politicians decided on the aid at two meetings of the Defense Council, the former at the beginning of June and the latter a week before the end of June 1992. The first meeting was attended by President of the Presidency Milan Kucan, Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek, Minister of Internal Affairs Igor Bavcar, Defense Minister Janez Jansa, Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel, Assembly President France Bucar, and TO [Territorial Defense] commander Janez Slapar. They jointly determined that the "Bosnians" urgently needed weapons, and they reviewed a list of their requirements supplied by the Ljubljana enterprise Tikos. It was agreed at the meeting that Slovenia would donate used weapons to the Bosnian Government, and sell unused weapons. The basic condition was that Slovenia would only get rid of amounts of weapons that would not threaten Slovene security. It was likewise agreed that the Bosnian Presidency's emissary in Slovenia would be Muhamed Cengic, who was at that time also the Bosnian Government's emissary in Croatia. Before this, Cengic had already spoke with Andrej Lovsin, director of VOMO [Military Security-Intelligence Service], and also with Defense Minister Janez Jansa.

At the second meeting at the end of July, the Slovene politicians—Igor Bavcar and France Bucar were not at the meeting, and Drnovsek was replaced by Joze Pucnik—discussed the Bosnian Government's request that our authorities also provide artillery ammunition, which Slovenia did not have. At the same time, Muhamed Cengic sent a message from Istanbul to Joze Pucnik, at that time deputy prime minister, that the "Bosnians" would pay for the weapons with grain. By the way, at that time Turkey did not provide Bosnia-Herzegovina with any aid in the form of weapons at all, and instead helped it financially.

According to the agreement concluded by the Slovene leadership, the operation of providing assistance in the form of weapons was handled by the Slovene Government, i.e., the Defense Ministry. The question, however, is whether the Defense Council and the then five-member Slovene Presidency were kept informed about the course of the operation the whole time. Dusan Plut, one of the Presidency members, requested several times

that the Defense Ministry report on the arms aid to Bosnia and also prepare a financial report, but the Presidency never received either report.

We visited Sead Halebic, owner and director of the Tikos joint-stock company, who is supposed to have provided the list of weapons needed by the Bosnian fighters at the first meeting in June. Sead Halebic showed us an authorization given to him on 15 May 1992 by the Bosnian Government, which authorized the Tikos enterprise to reach agreements on aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The authorization was signed by then Bosnia-Herzegovina Prime Minister Jure Pelivan. Halebic says that he actually functioned as an ambassador in Slovenia, since at that time there was not yet an official Bosnia-Herzegovina charge d'affaires. He supposedly did his job out of a sense of obligation, and according to him, it involved mediating in obtaining humanitarian packages, establishing contacts with Slovene politicians and enterprises, and resolving the difficulties of refugees and Bosnia-Herzegovina citizens employed in Slovenia who left to fight in Bosnia. He says that he does not know Muhamed Cengic, who was mentioned at the Defense Council meeting as the Bosnian Presidency's representative, very well, since he worked primarily in Zagreb. Halebic claims that weapons were not his enterprise's field, but it is true that he established numerous contacts, and among other things, presented a Bosnia-Herzegovina military attache, who was visiting Slovenia, to Miran Bogataj from the Defense Ministry. Otherwise, he already cooperated with Joze Pucnik, who, as Slovene deputy prime minister, was responsible for refugees and humanitarian aid. There is no confusion—it is the same Pucnik who vehemently stated "Nothing to anyone!" in the State Assembly, and demanded punishment for those who organized the Maribor arms trade under the guise of humanitarian aid.

With these newly discovered facts, the question that arises is whether it was really necessary for Slovenia to expose its little secret to the world, as happened in Maribor. At any rate, the investigating judge at the Maribor basic court, Mr. Bezjak, at 1530 on Friday, released from jail all four jailed suspects: Silvo Komar, head of the Maribor VIS [Security-Information Service], Bruno Kermavc, director of the Maribor airport, Tomislav Spehar, head of transportation at the Maribor airport, and Milan Hmelak, VIS operative. It is not quite clear why the reasons for their detention suddenly disappeared, since they could still influence witnesses, inasmuch as one of the main witnesses, Defense Minister Janez Jansa, has not yet been questioned. The minister was supposed to have been questioned back on Friday, but he was not there, and according to some information he is expected at the Maribor basic court on Monday. In any case, the proceedings by the investigating judge have not been halted, and furthermore a new suspect in the affair has appeared, Miro Predanic, a Ljubljana VIS employee who was questioned by the court, but not jailed.

[Box, p 6]

Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Office of the Prime Minister

Sarajevo, 15 May 1992

Authorization

by which the government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina authorizes the Tikos enterprise in Ljubljana, on behalf of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to agree on and ship purchases aimed at supporting and aiding Bosnia-Herzegovina, upon which war has been imposed. In these activities, the Tikos enterprise will observe all legal regulations in effect in the Republic of Slovenia, including regulations on ensuring payment.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina
Jure Pelivan

Federal

Minister Cited on Possibility of Relaxing Sanctions

LD2508213893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2030 GMT 25 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 25 (TANJUG)—Some humanitarian deliveries to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia may be approved soon, Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Milorad Unkovic said at a press conference here on Wednesday [25 August].

Unkovic said the impression following his recent conversations with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the president of the Security Council and the ambassadors of its permanent member-countries was that there was no feeling in favour of immediately lifting the international sanctions introduced against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in May 1992.

However, the representatives of some countries were in favour of easing the sanctions as soon as possible, two or three weeks after the signing of the Geneva peace agreement on the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Unkovic's conclusion was that irrespective of the limited possibilities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to influence it, peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is the main condition for lifting the sanctions. Free navigation on the Danube and return of the CSCE mission to Kosovo-Metohija are also requested, said Unkovic. In this context he added that the Yugoslav Government did not try to avoid reviewing the question of the CSCE mission and had not yet taken its final decision on the matter. The CSCE mission's mandate in Kosovo-Metohija expired in early July and was not extended.

In early September, the U.N. Security Council should consider a Yugoslav proposal on priority import of humanitarian goods, said Unkovic and expressed belief that the council's recommendation to the U.N. sanctions committee would be favourable. Permission was also requested for the import of medicines, natural gas, oil products, essential food products and sanitary materials.

The humanitarian goods whose import was requested by Yugoslavia are estimated at about 650 million dollars. It was proposed to ensure half the sum from Yugoslav exports, 35 percent by unfreezing the Yugoslav assets in banks abroad, and 15 percent by contributions of world humanitarian organisations.

Asked about Yugoslavia's overall (direct and indirect) losses due to the sanctions, Unkovic replied that they were in the range of 20-25 billion dollars. According to the demands for compensation submitted to the U.N. so far, direct and indirect losses sufferred by Yugoslavia's neighbours have reached about 50 billion dollars, said Unkovic.

Official Comments on 'Deplorable' CSCE 'Accusation'

LD2508200093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1655 GMT 25 Aug 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, August 25 (TANJUG)—The latest accusation by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) against the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its Republic of Serbia about their alleged practice of repression in ethnically-mixed regions are a "deplorable act along the lines of one-sided and biased media campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," Yugoslav Assistant Foreign Minister Nikola Cicanovic said on Wednesday [25 August].

Chairman of the CSCE Council Margaretha af Ugglas on Monday accused the Yugoslav and Serbian authorities of what she described as an alarming increase of repressive actions in the Serbian autonomous provinces of Kosovo-Metohija and Vojvodina, and the region of Raska (Sandzak).

"If (af Ugglas's) statement referred to a recent action by the Serbian police in which they arrested a terrorist group (of ethnic Albanians), the so-called 'People's Front for Kosovo Republic,' it is clear that the action was one aimed at maintaining order, peace and security of the state. I can see no reason why the CSCE would qualify it as an alarming increase of repressive actions," Cicanovic told TANJUG.

A strong ethnic Albanian secessionist movement, which has been active in Kosovo over the past two decades, is trying to proclaim in the Serbian lands a new Albanian state, Kosovo republic, and to join it to neighbouring Albania. These objectives, however, have so far been disguised by accusations about an allegedly endangered position of the Albanian minority in Kosovo.

In attempts to secede Kosovo, the movement has been resorting to terrorist actions, which is proved by reports about some 150 terrorist attacks on the Serbian police over the past year in which about ten policemen were killed.

"Another thing in the CSCE statement that arouses concern is the unfounded allegation that the Yugoslav Government is practicing ethnic violence," said Cicanovic.

"During its stay in our country, the CSCE mission had enough time and opportunities to see that the Yugoslav and Serbian Governments are sincerely trying to restore contacts and dialogue with the Albanian minority so that it would again start exercising its rights guaranteed under the federal and republican Constitutions," he said.

The CSCE's statement therefore causes surprise and can be understood only as yet another attempt to internationalize the question of minorities in Yugoslavia, said Cicanovic.

Western countries have falsely accused the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of having expelled the CSCE mission from its territory and ignored the fact that the mission's eight-month mandate had expired and that there had been no talks on its extension. The Yugoslav authorities have expressed readiness to extend the mandate to the CSCE mission under condition that Yugoslavia be again admitted to the Helsinki forum as its full member. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was unjustifiably suspended from the CSCE last summer.

"It is interesting that a group of ambassadors of CSCE countries on whose behalf al Ugglas signed the statement did not take into consideration the Yugoslav Government's official offer for a restoration of normal cooperation with the CSCE on equal footing which would make possible an exchange of information about the situation the CSCE is interested in. It would prevent any future misunderstandings of this kind and false conclusions," said Cicanovic.

Minister Refutes Charges by Croats in Province

LD2508214793 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2050 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 25 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Minister for Human and Minority Rights Margit Savovic on Wednesday [25 August] energetically refuted the allegation voiced by the leader of the Croatian community in the northern Serbian Province of Vojvodina, Bela Tonkovic, that the position of Croats in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has worsened since the departure of a mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which had been investigating human rights practices in Yugoslavia.

Tonkovic, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina, made the allegation recently in a letter to the deputy co-chairman of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Geerd Ahrens.

In a counter-letter to Geerd Ahrens, Savovic said that "there is no question that the position of the Croats, as that of all Yugoslav citizens, is difficult at this time, but this is primarily due to great impoverishment and tensions attendant on that state, caused by the war in former Yugoslavia and unjust U.N. sanctions against the new Yugoslavia," said the Yugoslav Ministry of Information.

She accused Tonkovic of manipulating the facts and of trying to use the difficult situation in Yugoslavia and the dissatisfaction of the international community with the expiry without renewal of the CSCE mission's mandate to Yugoslavia for the narrow political purposes of his party.

The Democratic Alliance of Croats in Vojvodina is striving for political and territorial autonomy for the Croats in Vojvodina, who account for some 3 percent of the province's population of two million.

The West is accusing Yugoslavia of expelling the CSCE fact-finding mission, but is careful not to mention that the mission's eight-month mandate has expired and that no talks have been held to renew it.

Yugoslav authorities have expressed a readiness to renew the mission's mandate under the condition that Yugoslavia be restored to its full membership of the CSCE, from which it has been unjustly suspended since last summer.

Savovic further said that Tonkovic's statements were "calculated to disturb the Croats in Yugoslavia" and fan hatred of the Serbs, who are the majority nation in the country.

Committee Pledges To Suspend Blockade on Danube

LD2508225993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2245 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, Aug 25 (TANJUG)—The Committee for the Blockade of the Danube at Belgrade decided on Wednesday [25 August] to suspend the operation until September 1 in order to help the Bosnian Serb negotiating team at Geneva attain its objective of peace.

However, officials of the Bela Ruza (White Rose) and Nova Vizantija (New Byzantium) non-governmental and non-party societies which have organised the blockade of this biggest European river say that the blockade will be resumed unless peace agreement for Bosnia is finalised and sanctions against the new Yugoslavia suspended by the end of August.

The protesters will seal the river and let foreign ships through only on the basis of strict reciprocity with the neighbouring countries—exchanging convoy for convoy.

The 'blockade against blockade' operation was launched in mid-July in protest against the United Nations' sanctions against Yugoslavia and an international blockade of the Danube as part of an effort to enforce the sanctions.

Under the sanctions, imposed in late May of 1992 and tightened in April of 1993 for Yugoslavia's alleged involvement in the civil war raging in neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, Yugoslav ships are banned from navigating outside national territorial waters.

Commentator Views Army's Role in Stability of Nation

AU2608102893 Belgrade NEDELJNA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 21-22 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by Borislav Solesa: "Uniforms About to Burst"]

[Text] It seems that the uniforms are marching by themselves, prompted by inertia. Two thirds of the Supreme Defense Council of Yugoslavia—Slobodan

Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic—are in Geneva, while, in the country, rumor has it that the list of generals who will soon be given their marching orders has already been compiled.

Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic stayed in the country, but there has been no message from his cabinet or from him personally as to what the Yugoslav Army will look like in the future, what are its intentions, who will come, who will go, what is happening in the affair created around the Commander of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, General Zivota Panic, or whether the bloody events in Vranje and Sabac, where 10 young men, eight Serbs and two Hungarians, lost their lives in what are still unexplained circumstances, may repeat themselves....

"Preserve for the blooming of freedom and peace," Zoran Lilic said in his message to the border guards on the occasion of the Day of Border Guards, 15 August. Four days later, a soldier from Sabac, Stanko Kostic, perished while guarding the border, as the Podgorica Corps has reported.

It is hard, even too hard, to lead this country.

The Bosnian type of hatred, inconceivable and incomprehensible, has silently moved here, too. It is poisoning, while the country is being eaten away by grave sanctions, economic crimes, black market dealings, political upheavals, announcements of new secessions, and the demands of ethnic minorities.

All these are the reasons why the army must be stable. As such, and as one of the pillars of any modern state, regardless of how retrograde this might sound (and it is), it should be the one thing to be believed and cherished, because its intentions are good and because it is guarding the so-much sought after and so-much criticized civil conformism.

Flavius Vegatius Renat dedicated his Discourse on Military Skill to Emperor Valentius II, but some passages of this work remain inspirational even today. In one of the chapters, writing about commanding inexperienced and ill-trained troops, he states: "For this reason, the chief commander—whose power and dignity are so great and in whose faithfulness and bravery the property of his country fellowmen, the defense of their towns, the lives of the soldiers, and the glory of the state are entrusted—must not only take care of the army as a whole, but about each private in it. Because, if he sees that his army consist of inexperienced troops or troops that have been long inactive, he must carefully study the strength, the spirit, and the behavior of each legion and each auxiliary, be they mounted or dismounted. As far as possible, he should know the name and capability of each nobleman, tribune, lower officer, and private. He must emphasize his supreme dignity and authority and maintain them through strictness. He must punish all war crimes according to the strictest legal provisions. He must be merciless toward delinquents and strive to demonstrate this in various places on various occasions."

The Yugoslav, that is, Serbian and Montenegrin, officers understand Renat's words perfectly. The unfortunate and aspiring plutocracy has multiplied so much that not even a much wealthier and bigger country could have stood it.

No matter how barbaric this may sound, any relaxed attitude toward the army and arms in the Balkans would mean abandoning the state ship to whirlwind and destruction. Today, disputes between the states and bad policies that make nations quarrel are still being resolved with arms. "The civilian" Slovenia is brimming with affairs and the smuggling of various arms, while Croatia's tourism has turned into the militarism of a country with the highest concentration of the army. Not to mention Bosnia, where the Muslims, the Croats, and the Serbs have armed any man capable of lifting a rifle.

Europe is armed, too, and has always been. NATO forces and their commander for south Europe, General Jeremy Burda, clearly hinted that intervention in Bosnia could take place very quickly once a decision has been made.

What remains to all who are deciding about the Yugoslav Army, is to combat the chaos in the internal and foreign policy with order, levelheaded actions, and spreading optimism. The generals are arguing publicly, polemicizing and insulting. Pathetic, sad, and dangerous. This situation has been going on for too long. Under such circumstances, Serbia and Montenegro resemble an overstrung bow or guitar sting. Just about to break.

Government Introduces Strict Price Controls

93BA1363F Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 p 7

[Article by N. Jelicic: "Price Reductions Are Not Coming Immediately"]

[Text] The federal government's decision the day before yesterday places strict control as of yesterday on the products in the consumer market basket which are under its jurisdiction. More accurately, the federal government has fixed the maximum producers' prices of salt, meat and meat products, macaroni products, certain types of canned fruits and vegetables, dairy products, hygiene products (detergents, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper). By limiting trade margins, the government has also attempted to prevent price lists from increasing without control and enormously along the line from the producer to the consumer.

As of yesterday, then, producers cannot sell to retailers, for example, salt at a price higher than 4.2 million dinars per kilogram, nor can 120 grams of toilet paper be priced higher than 5.4 million dinars. Detergent costs 21 million dinars at the new producers' price. The highest

average producers' price per kilogram of baby beef is 40 million dinars, while, for instance, a baby beef roast with bone in may be more expensive, but not more than 50 million dinars. The price of the neck of baby beef is considerably less expensive—28 million per kilogram. Much the same is true of pork, whose average producers' price is 44 million dinars, and poultry—33 million dinars per kilogram. As of yesterday, cooked sausages from producers cost 35 million dinars, and a kilogram of spices is restricted to 25 million dinars.

Under the government's most recent decision, limited new trade margins for many products took effect yesterday. For example, the margin for all types of meat is 8 percent in wholesale trade and 30 percent in retail trade. In addition to products in the consumer market basket, margins are also limited for other goods, such as children's clothing and footwear, stockings, nails and screws, metal cookware, stoves and ranges using solid fuel, furniture and equipment for the household, offices, and hospitals, office and school supplies....

However, if we are really to be able to purchase the products enumerated in the federal decisions at prices, as was announced, from 30 percent to several times cheaper than in previous days, it is not sufficient just to limit producers' price schedules and the trade margin on paper. It is obvious that the announced wave of price reductions cannot be felt immediately. Put most simply, the condition is that the merchants obtain the goods from the producers at the producers' prices, that is, that the goods reach them, if, of course, there are any in the first place.

As was vividly explained to us by Borisav Keserovic, chief in the Federal Market Inspectorate, this is the same thing as though a street that was two-way yesterday has today become one-way. The new rules apply only to drivers who enter that street as of today. If a merchant, say, has received shampoo a few days ago at the producers' price which was in effect at that time and duly and properly applied the regulations of that time as to the margin, and yesterday he did not get new shipments of that same shampoo, he is not required to lower the prices on the shelves. However, if the goods reached him yesterday at the new limited producers' prices, he is required to respect the new regulations concerning the margin.

The inspectors are in the field, Keserovic says, but they are also enforcing application of the old decisions, not only the new ones. They are also explaining to merchants how to implement the innovations, how to apply them, and to get their bearings. Of course, there are also regular checks to see whether goods are perhaps being hidden away in warehouses.

Chaos Reported in Belgrade Stores

93BA1361H Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Jul 93 p 9

[Article by Lj. Rabrenovic: "A Ceramic Tile for 100 Marks"]

[Text] Men's shoes from Greece cost more than 8 billion dinars in the Beograd Department Store, or, put more simply, about 800 German marks [DM]. In Rome or Paris, you can get shoes for that money (or much, much less) made from crocodile leather or shoes from the best-known world shoe designer—Gucci.

Imported shoes are being sold in almost all the boutiques in the city. However, even those who, in a time when the average earnings in our country amount to about DM20, have "a pile of money" for shoes have to go to several places, because the same styles are being sold at different prices.

For example, men's shoes imported from Greece (unknown manufacturer) cost DM220 in the boutique Mareli in Cumic Alley. On the same floor of this elite shopping center, those shoes are sold for 130, and in a neighboring boutique they can be bought at a price of DM110. In a private shoe store in Balkan Street, the same style costs DM90.

The Government of Serbia believes that this is speculation which is equivalent to war profiteering under our conditions. How else is one to judge the business with gasoline, when at Belgrade stations a liter of gasoline costs between DM3 and DM3.3. Meanwhile, it is well-known that in Pec a liter of fuel can be bought for DM1. Which means those, who are bringing gasoline from Kosovo earn as much as DM2 per liter.

Somehow, one can do without gasoline, even without shoes, but food has to be bought.

But who can explain the price of a lemon, which has gone to no less than 137 million dinars, that is, more than DM10? In the countries of the West, where the average pay is about DM3,000, a kilogram of lemons does not exceed a price of DM2.

The "craziness" on the market is confirmed by the prices of bathroom appliances in the Premijer Department Store. They are not acceptable even for the standards of the highly developed countries. After all, just one decorative ceramic tile costs all of DM100, while a sink with a mirror and additional details is being sold for DM10,000.

There are numerous "pearls." For instance, a deposit slip is obtained free in the bank. However, if they happen to run out, the individual must buy the deposit slip in the bookstores of Savremena Administracija. There, they cost 5 million dinars.

Inspectors Confiscate Suspect Goods

93BA1361G Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Jul 93 p 9

[Article by Vesna Jelicic: "258,000 Packs of Cigarettes Seized"]

[Text] In Belgrade alone, in the last three days market inspectors have seized goods worth about 120,000 German marks [DM]. The booty stored in the warehouse of a large commercial firm (we are not revealing its name so as not to excite anyone's imagination) includes not only stockings, skin cream, perfumes, and all manner of other trifles worth all of 150 billion dinars, with which many people intended to make some good money, but there lie buried, believe it or not, no fewer than 258,000 packs of cigarettes! All of it will stay in the warehouse until formal charges are lodged against those who in the trading with these obviously harmless trifles were becoming real war profiteers.

Private Operators Prominent Among the Sinners

In just one afternoon, when the Government of Serbia announced that it would set out in full pursuit of speculators, about 550 market inspectors knocked on doors in 13 major cities of Serbia and searched about 400 stores, both private and socialized, and wrote 144 citations—103 speculators will face a judge for misdemeanors, 33 have been charged with economic violations, and criminal charges have been filed against eight offenders. In the republic Trade Ministry, they do not want to reveal the names of the people and firms. According to Stojan Zdravkovic, assistant minister responsible for market inspection, or, as the public puts it more clearly, the chief republic market inspector, the inspectorate adheres to its own rule—no one is guilty until guilt is established.

And those charged with violating regulations are being accused of withdrawing goods from sales outlets, immense price hikes on certain foodstuffs (rice, salt, chocolate, teas), leveling prices without registering the changes in commercial books.... It would be hard to even enumerate all the clever inventions of those who want to get rich quick. Both consumers and the government have been paying the bill.

"Recently, there have been many more owners of private stores than socialized stores on the list of offenders," says Miodrag Nikolic, department head in the republic Market Inspectorate for Belgrade. They do not stop short even of thawing the prices that are strictly controlled by federal and republic regulations. There are quite a few independent private stores which have been selling sugar and oil, for example, at prices several times higher than those permitted. Dual prices are a particular kind of trick, which the coffee sellers were the first to invent. Belgrade inspectors wrote up eight criminal citations for one price of the black beverage when cash is paid and another when a check is used.

Inspection of the warehouses of large commercial firms, the largest suppliers of foodstuffs to the city, did not reveal inventories; that is, the goods were not found to be held up in warehouses. Obviously, even the producers, whose hands are tied by federal regulations, are delivering fewer goods, Stojan Zdravkovic explains.

People in the republic Market Inspectorate explain the explosion of prices in spite of the calmer growth of foreign exchange rates above all in terms of the illogical move of placing certain producers' prices under control, while merchants still have a free hand. After all, how otherwise are we to explain that the producers' price of beer is 1.5 million, but when it gets to the store, it costs all of 10 million dinars? Taxes are high, but a 10-fold price increase cannot be explained either by an increase in production costs or the higher cost of transport.

Meat From DM1 to DM10

Miodrag Nikolic gives another more interesting example. In Serbia, a kilogram of meat (live weight) sells for between DM1 and DM1.5. In the store, that same kilogram costs DM10.

Stojan Zdravkovic picturesquely compares the situation on the market to a patient receiving treatment that for a time lowers his temperature. However, when the temperature again jumps up in spite of the drugs he is regularly receiving, this is a sign that the treatment should be changed.

Pharmacies 'Completely Empty' in Belgrade

93BA1361I Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Jul 93 p 10

[Article by Olivera Popovic: "Pharmacies Almost Empty"]

[Text] The shelves of government pharmacies have been almost empty for days now. Only a few boxes of drugs not requiring a prescription, but paid for in cash, are left on the shelves. This kind of shortage of drugs has not been seen up to now, and the main cause continues to be the inappropriate price of drugs, which is why domestic factories are not delivering drugs.

In one of the largest socialized pharmacies in the center of the city, yesterday they had only four drugs requiring prescriptions. Trental, Nifelat, and diabineze, drugs which are in greatest demand in the pharmacies, have not been seen for months now. In the pharmacy, there is not a single box of powdered milk for infants.

Dragana Slovic, who manages a branch of the Stari Grad Pharmacy and who is replacing the director of the Beograd Pharmacy Institution, explains how hardly anything has reached government pharmacies in the last two weeks. Deliveries of 10 boxes are not even symbolic for Belgrade with its population in the millions.

"Our pharmacies are completely empty. We still have a few antibiotics, especially those for treating children and

small quantities of antipyretics, the drug manufacturers want advance payment from the Pharmacy Institution, but we do not have money. On the basis of bills for last month alone, the Pharmacy Institution is owed 3,000 billion dinars," says Mrs. Slovic.

In recent days, the Information Center of the Beograd Pharmacy Institution has utterly lost the reason for its existence: The pharmacists are having a harder and harder time finding scarce drugs in pharmacies, and, according to Mrs. Milana Ducic, in this center they are managing to help only a very small number of people. The pharmacists are managing to find only drugs not requiring a prescription.

In the government pharmacies, according to Mrs. Rada Stankovic, also from the Information Center of the Pharmacy Institution, one can find only what is made in the pharmacies: syrups made from marshmallow or primrose, or suntan cream, baby cream, eyedrops.... There are no longer any drugs such as we once bought like candy: Plivadon, Kafetin, Saridon, Acetysal.... Only in the 1 Maj Pharmacy at the London intersection is it possible to buy Febricet for pains and temperature at a price of 3.79 million.

In recent months, we have become accustomed to finding scarce drugs in the Internacional Pharmacy, a government pharmacy which operates on the principle of a private pharmacy. According to Mrs. Svetlana Miskelic, this pharmacy's manager, in recent days the supply has been very bad even here. They have been out of many drugs of domestic manufacturers, but there have been no problems at all with imported drugs. Every Tuesday, when orders are taken for drugs from abroad, there is a line in front of the pharmacy such as there used to be in front of Dafiment Banka.

In the Internacional Pharmacy, yesterday you could even buy the drug Nifelat, which heart patients with a prescription have been looking for in vain. It costs 54 million dinars, while the direct parallel for this drug, Kordipin from Krka, can be found in all the government pharmacies at a price of 45.36 million dinars. However, people do not easily decide to buy this drug, and in an estimate of the pharmacists, only one patient in 10 buys it.

Pliva's drug Andol costs 22 million in the Internacional Pharmacy, and Midol and Kafetin 28 million dinars. The other day they announced in this pharmacy that there would be more drugs from Jugoremedija: Trental, Lasiks, and antibiotics—Viziren and Runak, and then Turganil and Niripan for those with rheumatism. It has also been announced that Daonil is arriving for diabetics, Baralgin and Lapion for those with high blood pressure, Delmezon for hemorrhoids.... Of course, it will be possible to buy all these drugs only for money.

[Box, p 10]

Galenika: Raw Materials for Drugs Are Needed

If drugs are to reach pharmacies regularly and in sufficient quantities from the Zemun company ICN Galenika, this manufacturer of drugs must be afforded the opportunity to purchase raw materials in the form of an import permit for them, but also must be furnished the necessary dinar funds and foreign exchange. This is the briefest answer of Radomir Stojicevic, president of ICN Galenika, to the question of what needs to be done for there finally to be more drugs.

The president of the company ICN Galenika explains that the prices of drugs have been dropping steadily and that the last price increase of 490 percent makes it possible to realize only 15 percent of the foreign domicile price. This does not allow the pharmaceutical industry to operate without losses. Stojicevic illustrates with the example that six ampules of penicillin, with which it is possible to treat a serious strep throat or pneumonia, costs the same as a roll of toilet paper. The fact that the pharmacies are empty and that there is no money to buy drugs is not a problem which Galenika is going to solve, Stojicevic says.

High Prices for Spare Parts of Automobiles

93BA1361B Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Aug 93 p 16

[Article by M. Zdravkovic: "Those 'Crazy' Prices of Parts"]

[Text] Under the Law on Vehicle Insurance, the maximum indemnity, which the government is supposed to change periodically to adjust for inflation, is so ridiculously low that the unfortunate owners of a stolen or damaged vehicle can only moan and groan. With the 4 billion dinars, which is the maximum compensation, the insureds can buy only one or two tires. With an increase to 20 billion, which is a fivefold higher amount, perhaps someone will manage to purchase all the tires, and some only three!

As of tomorrow, the standard hour for most garages in the socialized sector will be 100 million dinars. The prices of spare parts are completely "crazy." When one knows all this, then it is clear how much trouble an automobile is, along with the daily troubles of surviving.

Many owners are trying to do the most necessary repairs themselves, with the help of a "more knowledgeable" friend or neighbor. What good is that, when the replacement part is just as "inaccessible" as a new car?

In this time of the nonsensical blockade, it is clear why spare parts are expensive, especially for imported models. But why are parts for domestic cars, which are produced in domestic factories, too expensive? To answer that question, we need to know how the prices of spare parts, equipment, and tires are formed. We visited

a sizable number of garages and spare-parts stores. The main thing is that the differences are immense, and so the prices of parts are drastic. At one time, the spare part for a Skoda was the most expensive on our market. Later, the lead was taken by IMV of Slovenia, but today all parts are enormously expensive compared to the price abroad.

Most merchants buy parts abroad. Some do this on their own, seeking the most favorable vendor in Austria or Greece. Others buy through a middleman. It is a fact that both of them are buying parts for German marks [DM]. And they sell them for marks, but even the prices denominated in foreign exchange are not the same from one store to another. Everything depends on the seller.

"Marks do not grow on trees. I have to buy them at the 'scalping' rate of the dinar. I add to that my margin, customs costs, and only then do I calculate the price," we were told by a seller of original parts for the Volkswagen, who did not want his name published.

"We have a regular supply of parts from Greece. Aside from customs costs, the price includes a 35-percent tax and our margin. All in all, if a part costs DM10 abroad, in our store here the price will be DM17 or DM18. It might, of course, be more expensive, but we want to have a good relation over the long run with our customers, mindful of their ability to pay at the moment," we were told by Milomir Radovic, director of the Kaza-Auto Sales and Service Center (72-56-56), which sells and services the Mazda.

We experienced a real shock in one parts store. A domestic tire was offered to us at a price almost sixfold greater than what it is abroad! When we asked why the price was so high, we were told that the reason lay in inflation and the announced price freeze. We found that same tire at one-third the price in another store.

Perhaps the best explanation about prices was supplied by Petar Zivkovic of the Financial Department at Belauto.

"When we purchase parts, we try to buy goods from the cheapest supplier. The ratio between the foreign price and the domestic price is between 1:2.5 and 1:3. We have included in that price all costs and our profit margin. We estimate that it is perhaps too high and will soon be reduced from a double-digit to a single-digit figure! We are aware of the conditions in which we live. With high and unrealistic prices in which we would include even what does not exist in order to achieve some possible security, we would only be 'driving away' our customers to other garages. And it is certain that Belauto Center on Petlovo Brdo (53-22-055) was not built in order to have an overflowing stockroom of original parts which no one is buying, and there is no one in the garage."

The best thing is to ask around about the prices of parts before you buy. You can get help in this from the Information Center of AMK Serbia, which is open daily (324-8-324).

Incidentally, there is a larger and larger supply on the car market. The models being most advertised are Volkswagen and Mercedes, along with those of other European and Japanese carmakers. There have been so few customers that they can be counted on one's fingers. Aside from the high prices in foreign exchange and the customs duties, which are the highest in the world, the exorbitant price of fuel is the Number One "culprit" for the diminishing interest of customers.

Who wants to buy a new car to "sit" in front of the house? At least that would be the situation for 99 percent of the Yugoslavs.

Blocking of RSK-Serbia Smuggling Channels

93BA1363D Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Jul 93 p 11

[Article by M. Cetnik: "Smuggling Channels Soon To Be Closed"]

[Text] Knin, 27 Jul—A few years ago, a foreign newspaperwoman who saw that Krajina was breaking completely with Croatia asked in amazement: "What are the Krajina people going to live on?" "During three years of the war, Krajina lived mainly off war booty and smuggling," she was told in reply.

During a recent meeting, she looked at us in wonderment. She never suspected that the answer was not a joke. Surviving in an extremely difficult geopolitical position, the RSK [republic of Serbina Krajina] (the state and its citizens) has been forced to use those trading methods, financial operations, and channels for goods which are punishable under the law. From the standpoint of the law-governed state, this is classic governmental and civil crime. However, even in other "governmental organisms" on the ruins of the former Yugoslavia it simply would not survive (militarily and economically) without using this "methodology" of reproduction, because survival is a primary instinct both in biology and also for society and the state. In that context, the most important question is where is the line beyond which smuggling is not only a certain functional element, but becomes destructive activity?

One high official in the Krajina government, asking not to be named, says that crime prevention in Krajina is the government's programmatic orientation. A coordinated body has already been formed for the region of Banija and Kordun; its task is to sever smuggling channels. The trade operating between that part of Krajina and the Muslim Cazin Krajina is becoming smuggling on an incredible scale. A special unit of the Serbian army of Krajina was recently stationed on the demarcation line. What is worse, smuggling channels have also begun to operate on the Kupa in the direction of Croatia.

Leaving other aspects aside, it is clear that significant quantities of strategic goods are pouring out of Krajina in this way. The coordinating bodies for crime prevention, this official says, will also be formed for the region

of northern Dalmatia and Lika as well as for the Slavonia-Baranja region of Krajina. Crime in the top government leadership, he says, must also come under attack from these measures. "Even if the president of the republic is involved, nothing can pardon him from responsibility," a government official remarks in answer to a question about recent accusations made by Rade Leskovac, leader of the Krajina Radicals, against Goran Hadzic, president of the RSK. Still, a witch-hunt cannot be declared against people without evidence and established guilt.

In the personal conviction of our informant, the head of the hydra known as war profiteering is located in the capital of Serbia, but its lengthy tentacles extend into Krajina. In the very recent past, according to competent sources, it is possible that the entanglement of crime in Krajina could have begun to unravel at least partly.

New Ways of Trading Hard Currency

93BA1361F Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Jul 93 p 9

[Article by G. Volf: "The New Style of Speculation"]

[Text] It is prohibited to buy foreign exchange with account money, but this has not prevented the buying and selling of foreign exchange. Certain banks and savings banks are doing business in spite of blocked accounts, but they are not buying exchange from the public. The biggest problem for those with a well-developed "business" is a source of the foreign currency, and this has come down to the street and trading among firms and banks—what is referred to as scalping. You cannot go onto the street with checks and similar papers, but only with cash. Another new invention is the granting of an incentive of all of 60 percent on dinars deposited in one of the private banks.

That incentive in the bank referred to was still higher—70 percent two days ago, but since a majority of financial institutions engage in similar machinations, we will not mention the name for now, because by so doing we would be pointing to only one of the culprits. Blocking the accounts of savings banks, which number more than 400 in Belgrade alone, has reduced the supply of hard currency for firms trying to do business under these conditions, and the banks that engage in scalping have been left without strong competition. Nevertheless, the savings banks and financial crooks in them are preparing a whole range of machinations to "get around" the decisions of the NBJ [National Bank of Yugoslavia].

So, the game of "we are all innocent" continues, except that some are getting rich fast in that game, while others are getting poor with the same speed. Unfortunately, the immense majority is in the latter group. The government banks have no problems, at least not such big ones, as certain private banks, in obtaining cash, and on the street a German mark could be purchased yesterday for 12 million dinars. That same currency costs precisely 30 million dinars in a scalping arrangement. The difference between the street price and the price in a final sale is obviously immense, precisely 2.5-fold. When a 60-percent incentive is paid to obtain cash dinars, a much higher rate than the street rate is being paid for the foreign exchange, so the earnings are high once again. But it seems as if everything is according to the law.

The closing of the quasi-savings banks has only given various banks more customers calling upon them for hard currency. There are customers, then; all one needs is to assemble sufficient convertible currency.

Individuals who see 60 percent more money in their current accounts the next day than they deposited are more than happy. But this sale price for account money is included in almost all prices, so that the public is left with the illusion that they have fared well. After all, if you do not pay in one place, you will pay in another or in the store when you try to use the check and turn your money into commodities. Anyone who was unwilling or unable to go along with all those tricks was out yet another 60 percent.

Thus, the money trade remains the only one that is lucrative. The only problem here is that you cannot eat money, because if it were possible for money to become a food item and do without the moment referred to as purchase and sale, we would be the best-fed nation in the world. Anyone who does not have a bank or a few million dollars to open one has a different choice—to open current accounts in all banks. So, when he deposits all the dinars at a 60-percent incentive, the next morning he goes from window to window and at each one cashes a check. Again, at an "interest" of 60 percent he pays that money into accounts from which he has withdrawn money, and the faster he turns it over, the more he makes, which again depends on the ability of this toiler to get cash together. The thing, of course, is to turn that surplus into hard currency.

Central Bank's Credits To Pay Old Deposits

93BA1361E Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 p 13

[Unattributed article: "50 German Marks a Month in Dinars"]

[Text] Belgrade—On the basis of definitive sale of deposited foreign exchange savings, the National Bank of Yugoslavia (NBJ) is extending to creditworthy banks loans in the amount of 90 percent of the funds they need, provided the dinar equivalent of the foreign exchange savings sold is used for a particular purpose.

This is the essence of the decision which the NBJ issued the beginning of this week about the terms and procedure for making short-term loans to banks on the basis of definitive sale of the deposited foreign exchange savings of individuals.

Thus, under this decision, published in the most recent issue of SLUZBENI LIST SRJ [OFFICIAL GAZETTE

OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA], loans to banks will be approved for payment of the dinar equivalent from a foreign exchange savings passbook or foreign exchange account in cash up to 50 German marks in the course of any one month.

Dinar loans will also be extended on the basis of the sale of old foreign exchange savings for the purchase, construction, and tenant's purchase of housing and office space, as well as to buy up loans extended earlier for those purposes and for putting up deposits and participation to obtain credits for those purposes.

Loans will also be furnished from the treasury of the NBJ to banks on the basis of the sale of old foreign exchange savings to purchase fuel and food for canning, to pay the costs of hospital medical treatment, for the transport of a patient and persons designated to accompany the seriously ill, for the costs of purchasing drugs, orthopedic appliances and aids, to cover burial expenses, as well as to make payments on the basis of enforceable court orders.

The NBJ is making loans to banks for a term up to one year at an annual rate of interest at the level of one-fifth of the current discount rate.

The dinar equivalent of the foreign exchange savings purchased, as well as the loans on that basis, are extended at the exchange rate given in the list of rates from the Interbank Meeting of the Unified Foreign Exchange Market as of the date of the payment or transfer of the funds to the giro account of the final beneficiary.

The banks will obtain those loans on the basis of certain documents that serve as evidence of the definitive sale of the deposited foreign exchange savings of individuals and also concerning the use of the dinar equivalent of the foreign exchange sold for the stated purpose.

The NBJ will also extend a special loan to banks for liquidity at 100 percent of the amount of the dinar equivalent of the foreign exchange savings of individuals paid to savings depositors with the status of refugee and citizens of the FRY whose parent bank or their components are located outside the country's unified monetary system.

The banks are required to pay individuals out of their own potential a portion of the foreign exchange savings in the form of foreign exchange for the purposes and under the conditions stated in the Decision on Amounts and Conditions at which authorized banks can sell foreign exchange to domestic natural persons.

Bankers 'Shocked' by New Central Bank Policy

93BA1361D Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 p 13

[Article by B. Stepanovic: "The Dinar in Free Fall"]

[Text] Yesterday's statement by Borislav Atanackovic, the new governor of the NBJ [National Bank of Yugoslavia], left a deep impression both on the ostracized journalists and also on the bankers. None of the latter whom we contacted yesterday wanted to comment on the governor's statement that he has the support of the bankers for his moves. They were not even willing to express their opinion about the announced future policy governing primary issue, public works, the black-market exchange rate, and other measures.

"I am horrified, shocked, overwhelmed. I do not know what to say about the new governor's statement. He has shown that he is not up to the office he holds. As though none of us know how foreign currencies are being bought, where the paper on the street is coming from. Only the governor is astounded, don't kid me! If someone wanted to talk, he might say that the dinars are coming from the NBJ, they are passing through Montenegro Banka, and then through channels it is not advisable to talk about, and because of the blockade they reach the black market. All the bankers know that; only the governor does not know."

This is the statement of a prestigious banker, whose name we do not mention for understandable reasons, because, as he told us, these are "murky times" and he does not want the bank to suffer because of his statements.

Another banker to whom we talked is disappointed in the journalists for not having asked the governor whether he perhaps has some better-quality relations with the dealers now they have brought him the new 50-million-dinar note to show to him. Is this cooperation two-sided, or perhaps the governor just went into the street to exchange a few German marks, our informant wondered.

The street dealers to whom we referred were also embarrassed yesterday; first, Vlajko Stojiljkovic, president of the Serbian Chamber of Commerce, and then the governor himself (along with journalists and certain directors) accused them of raising the exchange rate on the black market.

"I raised the exchange rate?! Sure, in the morning when I go for a walk, I first stop by my vault to pick up the dinars which my wife has printed during the night. But she does not print as much as I want, but our council of dealers regularly gets together and sets the daily exchange rate," we were told in a deadpan face by a street dealer on Terazije.

Here is how the "council of dealers" has "created" the exchange rate in the course of this month: On 1 July, they were buying the mark in Belgrade for 1.2 million and selling it for 1.3 million dinars. Ten days later, the rates for the mark were 3 million and 3.5 million dinars, respectively. After another 10 days, on 20 July, the mark was purchased at 8.5 million and sold at 9.5 million dinars. This week, the dinar is already in free fall—the mark in just one day, the day before yesterday, went

from 13 million in the morning to 22 million dinars in the late afternoon. We still do not know where all of that will end by the end of the week. Since the beginning of the month, the dinar has dropped to about one-eighteenth of what it was, so that the official July inflation of 431.6 percent is a joke by comparison. They arrived at this price of foreign exchange in the situation of a great shortage of cash dinars—if there had been enough, the bankers say, the price would have been far higher. The evidence is that the exchange rate for account money was twice as high before the exchange offices were closed.

The most lucrative thing up to now, then, has been to invest available dinars in foreign exchange. That will obviously be the case in the future as well, especially in the light of the statement by Governor Borislav Atanackovic that they will be printing as much money as necessary, and a great deal will be necessary. If the promise is realized that they will "release so much cash that the people will not know what to do with it," we must assume that it will quickly think what to do, and will again rush for foreign exchange. How high the price of hard currency will be in that situation it is too early (and perhaps also senseless) to tell.

Belgrade Bank Offers Credits to Pensioners

93BA1361A Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 30 Jul 93 p 28

[Article by B.S.: "Loans for Pensioners"]

[Text] Belgrade—All pensioners who have current accounts in Beobanka or want to open them can take loans to buy food for canning, coal, firewood, and stoves for solid fuels. They must put up 15 percent, and they receive a loan for the remainder at 20-percent monthly interest and a term of 12 months. The maximum amount of the loan can be the dinar equivalent of 150 German marks [DM], that is, about 1.5 billion dinars, it was announced yesterday in a news conference in Beobanka.

The interest on Beobanka's certificates of deposit have risen to 250 percent over a term of 95 days and 190 percent withdrawn before maturity. Because recently there have been difficulties in picking up checks, a decision was made for all Beobanka offices to be open as an exception on Sunday 1 August from 0900 to 1500 hours so that owners of current accounts can pick up checks. What is more, Beobanka is offering the convenience of paying utilities and municipal services with old foreign exchange savings—Infostan is offering a 40-percent discount for prepayment of utilities from one to three months in advance. According to the present calculation, these obligations can be met with DM18.5 for one year.

The management of Beobanka has proposed to the Association of Yugoslav Banks that the maximum amount per check be increased from 100 to 500 million dinars because of the problems the banks are having issuing so many checks. According to Zlatan Perucic, Beobanka director, all methods of payment between juridical persons should be prohibited except credit transfers, and the public should have a discount of 10 percent for payment by check, in order to reaffirm this method of payment. Beobanka is supporting the measures of the National Bank of Yugoslavia and advocates immediate interdiction, whatever the cost, of speculative developments and multiple exchange rates, and credit-and-monetary policy should stimulate the banks to invest in production.

Rubber Industry Problems Under Sanctions

93BA1361C Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Aug 93 p 16

[Article by S.N.J.: "Large Imports"]

[Text] Adoption of the sanctions has inflicted great harm on the Yugoslav rubber industry. Before the blockade and the wars which have befallen us, it was operating even on the world market. It had a share of 2 percent of the world tire market!

Unfortunately, the rubber industry was also 95-percent dependent on imported production supplies. Synthetic rubber is not manufactured in our country. And when all this is taken into account, it is incomprehensible that a tire in our country costs sixfold more than if you buy that same tire even from a better-known manufacturer and much better quality in Germany or France....

The tiremakers do not have an answer to that question. It is true that the sellers with their margins have a considerable share in the price and there is a long chain of middlemen from production to the final customer, but in spite of all those circumstances favorable to the manufacturers, there is no justification.

Serbia

Seselj Calls For Acceptance of Geneva Accord

LD2508155393 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Aug (TANJUG)—The chairman of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS] today called on the people's assembly of the republic of Srpska to accept the proposed Geneva agreement.

At a news conference Seselj pointed out that the SRS is not satisfied with the results of the Geneva conference and the agreement that was reached due to the fact that from the very beginning the SRS insisted on a partition along the front lines.

"It is difficult for us to accept that some Serbian territories, such as Kupres, Ozren, and the Olovo area, will be handed over to the Croats or the Muslims," Seselj said. The SRS chairman stressed, however, that the balance of powers in the world is such that it is in the interest of the

entire Serbian nation and the republic of Srpska to accept the Geneva agreement and to sign it.

Seselj is of the opinion that the republic of Srpska assembly should condition the acceptance of the demarcation proposal, the status of Sarajevo, and the military proposal upon the lifting of sanctions against the FRY.

According to Seselj, the United States will use all means to undermine the agreement and that is why there is a great possibility that the Muslim side will not accept the Geneva proposal. "This would result in Bosnia-Herzegovina being divided into two parts," Seselj said. He said the Geneva agreement is a transitional stage toward a definite partition of Bosnia and a confirmation of his well-known standpoint that Bosnia-Herzegovina will not survive as a state.

Seselj expects that the United States and the Muslim side will insist on the Serbs fulfilling some additional conditions but he stressed that this is the maximum as far as Serbian concessions are concerned.

Nikola Poplasen, chairman of the SRS in the republic of Srpska, said that there was no reason and no future for an Islamic state in Bosnia-Herzegovina and that the final solution would be reached only when the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina is "firmly divided by the boundaries between the Serbian and Croatian nations."

Asked about the Federal Assembly session tomorrow, Seselj said the [SRS] main committee will let the SRS Deputies Club decide if it will vote in favor of the budget. According to Seselj, the Radicals expect the issue of Zivota Panic, chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, to be resolved today, as the SRS had set this as a condition for voting in favor of the budget a long time ago.

Relations Between Radical, Democratic Party Viewed

AU2508134493 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Aug 93 p 14

[Article by M. Mikuljanac: "Two Vojislavs Against One Slobodan?"]

[Text] The rumors that the Serbian Radical Party [SRS] and the Democratic Party of Serbia [DSS] are coming closer already started at the beginning of summer, when Vojislav Kostunica, the chairman of the DSS, claimed that the members of parliament from his party would vote against the Socialist government, even if the initiative for such a step came from the Serbian Radical Party.

This was a shock for the rest of the so-called democratic opposition, because it is an unwritten rule that SRS initiatives are rejected without consideration, no matter what their contents might be. The Serbian Renewal Movement [SPO] was particularly surprised, because the members of the Radical Party are a bigger enemy for them than "the devil himself" (the Socialist Party).

There has been no official comment on the negotiations between the SRS and the DSS (if it is true that there were some). According to some assessments by the opposition, this is quite understandable because Vojislav Kostunica could not have allowed himself to cooperate with a man who is despised among the DSS voters. Such a revelation would not even suit Vojislav Seselj, who has spilled a lot of poison on the democratic opposition so far.

Following the rule that where there is smoke, there is fire, analysts of Serbian political events remember that Kostunica is the only opposition leader whom Seselj has never attacked. The rumors were also stirred up because of the close attitudes of the DSS and the SRS in connection with the Bosnian issue, and an unmistakable signal was given by Seselj himself when he said in a news conference that "conscientious patriots are emerging also in the Democratic Movement of Serbia [Depos], with whom cooperation might be possible."

This was perhaps a probing signal at the same time, because Kostunica could have understood it, but there was no response. Kostunica's statement that the SRS is a serious party which cannot be neglected is rather a diplomatic gesture of good will, although it was interpreted as a betrayal. Milan Bozic, the former Kostunica associate from the then Democratic Party, was the first one who dared to speak openly about this issue in a B-92 radio program.

An open conflict between the DSS and the SPO broke out in the Belgrade borough of Stari Grad, in which the DSS coalition partners (within the Depos) attacked the only Serbian leader who has never been a Communist. Borivoje Borovic (the member of the SPO presidency) declared in a news conference on the occasion of this conflict: "I am afraid that Vojislav Kostunica has decided to cooperate with the Radical Party against the Serbian Renewal Movement." Vladimir Gajic, the SPO secretary general, tried to soften these words in the same news conference, expressing the hope that such a cooperation between the DSS and the SRS would never start.

After the DSS economic program had been published, Kostunica said that there were no elements for cooperation with the Radical Party in this field, whereas Seselj praised the patriotic attitude of the DSS. He claimed that there had been no contacts between the SRS and the DSS, but that future contacts were not excluded from the point of view of the SRS.

Those who believe that the two Vojislavs could overthrow one Slobodan (primarily through the government of Nikola Sainovic) expect that some other opposition parties could join them in this task in September, first of all the Democratic Party. However, there are no concrete indications for these assumptions. But everything is possible on the Serbian opposition scene. Although—as some of them remark—even if the opposition were united, they would not have enough strength to seize power.

BORBA Views Role of U.S. Troops on Border

AU2608111693 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Aug 93 p 11

[Article by B. Solesa: "A Yankee in the Balkan Ethnic Volcano"]

[Text] The fires of war in the west of the former Yugoslavia are still raging and, in the south, a new fire, which is seriously threatening to become a blaze of some magnitude, is already starting. Macedonia has introduced passports for Yugoslavs and the Yugoslav-Macedonian border is being guarded by elite U.S. troops. Albania is a story in itself.

Expressed in a diplomatic, roundabout way, Yugoslavia has unsatisfactory relations with Albania. Several armed incidents on the border, which have resulted in casualties on both sides (the latest victim being the 19-year old soldier from Sabac, Stanko Kostic), indicate that there is a lot more behind this observation. It is clear that there is a mountain of problems as large as Prokletije [mountain in the North Albanian Alps] behind the Yugoslav Government's statement of 21 August 1993.

A realistic danger is embodied in the Yugoslav Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija and the recently-recognized Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Of course, the danger does not stem from them toward some outside factor. It is in the regions themselves that ethnic and religious unrest might erupt. They are very much aware of this in both Yugoslavia and Macedonia.

Fears of events developing in such a way—which is becoming increasingly evident in the West—are completely logical. Albania—which is best remembered in Europe and the world for the flocks of refugees who boarded foreign ships by force in their desire to leave their country at all costs—and the blocked Yugoslavia—in whose neighborhood the civil war rages on—cannot be great guarantees of peace.

This is precisely why Lieutenant Colonel Walter Holtron was chosen to head one of the best trained units of the U.S. Army, which came to control the Macedonian-Yugoslav border. Actually, the Yankees, commanded by Holton, but also by the Danish General Finn Thomsen, have found themselves in an ethnically-varied environment, and on the verge of a large-scale war that could hardly remain a local one. In addition to the Macedonians, there are a lot of Serbs—particularly near Kumanovo—and a large number of Albanians on the Macedonian side of the Yugoslav border. They are all separated by borders.

Optimists believe that it is left to the Yugoslav, Macedonian, and U.S. soldiers to do their jobs in the best way they know how. To prevent excessive behavior or murders. Only if they do their jobs well will the hotheads on all sides of the border cool down, and only this will lead to a political solution of the conflicts. Such a development of events would certainly also influence the Albanian side, and would calm the whole situation. This would ensure that no one would be killed or would disappear in the Balkan ethnic volcano.

Montenegro

Bulatovic Discusses Sanctions With U.S. Charge

LD2508161593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1348 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Podgorica, 25 Aug (TANJUG)—Momir Bulatovic, president of Montenegro, said during today's talks with (Rudolf Perin), charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, that the lifting of the sanctions for Montenegro and Serbia, i.e. for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] is an issue of vital importance.

As it has been announced, during the meeting with (Perin) in Podgorica, Bulatovic expressed firm belief that the positive outcome of the negotiations on Bosnia, along with the appreciation for the cooperation and constructive policy of Montenegro and Serbia in the peace process, will finally bring to the fore the issue of lifting the sanctions against the FRY.

This would create much more favorable conditions for a successful and peaceful settlement of the remaining disputed issues in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The Montenegrin president and the U.S. charge d'affaires stressed mutual interest in restoring peace in former Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as possible and in finding a final solution to respect the most vital interests of all three nations.

It was stressed that the representatives of the beleaguered sides should be aware of the situation on the ground and the true price of continued clashes, a statement says.

Macedonia

Negotiations With Greece Set To Resume 28 Sep

AU2508175693 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 25 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Z.Skerlev: "Face-to-Face Negotiations Agreed"]

[Text] "During our delegation's meeting with Greek representative Jorgos Papulyas in New York two days ago, we did not discuss the essential problems related to the dispute between our two countries. We made an agreement on the further progress of negotiations. It was agreed that bilateral negotiations are to continue at United Nations headquarters on 28 September.

"We also agreed that the problems regarding our state's name should be solved, but first of all general relations between Macedonia and Greece should be addressed."

This was especially stated from New York for NOVA MAKEDONIJA yesterday by Ivan Tosevski, who represented the Macedonian delegation together with Victor Gaber.

"Mister Vance thinks that it will be of greater value if we get to the phase of face-to-face negotiations, than to pursue the negotiations via mediators. That is a very good idea," Tosevki emphasized.

Tosevski's assessment of the negotiations is that they were "working and cordial." Both sides expressed their readiness to promote relations through direct contact.

Concerning the further progress of the negotiations it is now certain they will go beyond the planned phase.

According to announcements, Cyrus Vance has to present UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali with a report on possible progress or an agreement in the negotiations; the Security Council then has to come up with a name. A rumor was cited saying that the Security Council is allegedly ready, if no satisfactory solutions are presented from either side, especially from Macedonia, to impose the name of "New Macedonia" with a special decision! These announcements and rumors are strongly denied by Skopje. Mister Tosevski confirmed that there will be no final solutions at the 20 September session; he also added that we would not expect the series of consecutive meetings to produce anything certain, at least not before 28 September, when the bilateral discussions resume with the mediation of Mister Vance.

That is why it is still uncertain whether Cyrus Vance will go through with his planned visit to Skopje and Athens at the end of this month. However, after the agreement for face-to-face negotiations between the two neighbors, the visit seems more realistic and probable.

As far as the negotiations in New York are concerned, Tosevski announced that another meeting will be held today with Papulyas. Our delegation to the New York meeting gave an official release to the Greek mass media from both ministries, that the essence of the formulation neighboring countries is that, in future, negotiations will be face-to-face and continuous.

Border Problems Linked to Talks With Greece

AU2608103493 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 25 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by K. Janasliev: "The Passengers Return Because of the Name"]

[Text] Gevgelija, Evzoni, 24 August—The meeting between the representatives of the Macedonian and the Greek delegations in New York, and the announcement about the initiation of direct Macedonian-Greek discussions, was followed by returning of our citizens, being turned back from Greek border crossings on the Macedonian-Greek border. The reason is already known—the name of our state in the passports and other documents of our citizens travelling to this country—and discriminatory measures against our citizens have been applied on the Greek border crossings for a long period of time. More precisely, since our country's independence of our country and Greece's initiating obstacles Greece to its international recognition.

Just after last nights's news broadcast in this country, about the Macedonian-Greek negotiations, the Greek border officers resumed their discriminatory attitudes. That is, in recent days, including last weekend, our citizens, although few in number, were crossing the Greek border at Evzoni without great difficulty and our travellers were treated with greater tolerance, but only if they travelled with ex-SFRY [Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] passports and with old car registrations.

This morning, however, the old picture was repeated at Evzoni: All passengers travelling with any document on which the name Republic of Macedonia was mentioned, were turned back. First of all, Ljube Petrusevski from Veles was turned back from Evzoni border crossing with no other excuse than the car licence, which is, by the way, not a compulsory document for border crossing, but which was issued by the responsible authority of the Republic of Macedonia. Just after that, the camp was closed in front of Mitko Petrov's truck from Vinica, because his green card was issued by the Association "Macedonia". As far as the vehicles with new car registrations are concerned, their journey to Greece is ended before their arrival at the Greek border crossing. This was experienced today by U.S. citizens of Macedonian origin, Vera and Lazar Veskoski, travelling in a vehicle from Kavadarri, with a new car registration. Their U.S. passports did not help them enter Greece, because there was "RM" on their car registration.

It is completely unknown whether the reason for this renewed discriminatory attitude of the Greek border officers was only the new morning shift on the Evzoni border crossing, or new instructions for the border crossing following the latest developments in the Macedonia-Greek negotiations, which have very often resulted in the Greek border authorities' actions continuing to be applied on the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. That means that the crossing of the Greek border is still accomplished only with difficulty.

Kosovo

Serbian Party Leader Assails Albanian Activities

LD2508212493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1948 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Pristina, Yugoslavia, Aug 25 (TANJUG)—The leader of the Serbian Socialist Party in the province of Kosovo-Metohija, Zivorad Igic, on Wednesday [25 August] conferred with First Secretary of the French Embassy to Yugoslavia Violaine de Villemeure, and explained to her that this southern Serbian province was being torn apart by textbook separatism practiced by

ethnic Albanians in an effort to detach the territory from Serbia and its parent Yugoslavia and annexe it to neighbouring Albania.

During the talk held at the provincial centre of Pristina, Igic said that, in the first six months of the year alone, ethnic Albanian separatists had perpetrated nearly 50 terrorist attacks against Yugoslav officers guarding the national border with Albania, demolished scores of border signs and ambushed dozens of Serbian police patrols in the province, killing two police officers and wounding 12, said a statement released after the talk.

Igic said that, in the same period, the security service in Kosovo-Metohija had seized from ethnic Albanians in excess of one thousand pieces of contraband weaponry, from pistols to portable rocket launchers of various types, more than 20,000 rounds of ammunition of different calibres, hundreds of grenades and other explosive devices.

He said also that police had seized several kilos of heroin and tens of thousands of forged German marks and U.S. dollars.

'The battle against crime and terrorism of this magnitude is not a violation of human rights, but the protection of the country's independence and sovereignty,' said Igic.

The ethnic Albanian secessionist movement, which is striving to create a new Albanian state in Serbian land and then annexe it to neighbouring Albania, has been masking its true intentions by alleging violations of the human and minority rights of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo-Metohija.